THE TIMES

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LAUREN REBOURS/AP

Hundreds of ethnic Albanians streaming towards the border crossing of Blace near Skopje yesterday after fleeing the Yugoslav province of Kosovo. As Nato airstrikes continue, thousands more are heading for Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro

Nato warns Milosevic he has no hiding place

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR, AND CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC has been warned that all his military forces throughout Yugoslavia are now vulnerable to Nato air attacks.

The decision to expand the target area for airstrikes and to increase their tempo was confirmed yesterday by General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said: "Nowhere in the whole Federal Republic of Yugoslavia can he (Mr Milosevic) expect to be immune from the attacks on the military machine. We will not rule anything in or out if it is related to the war machine of Milosevic."

The warning came after Western leaders had unanimously rejected the offer made by the Yugoslav leader to begin pulling back his forces from Kosovo in return for an end to Nato bombing. British officials said they saw little chance of negotiating with Mr Milosevic, following further reports of Serb troops and special police forcing thousands of ethnic Albanians out of their homes. Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, was fast becoming a ghost city yesterday as tens of thousands sought sanctuary in Albania.

There were also grim warnings from United Nations world food programme officials that the flood of refugees in Albania could starve unless emergency supplies were sent to the country soon.

In Brussels, Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, said that the Serbs were intensifying their "identity elimination" of the ethnic Albanians by destroying archives. "Property deeds, marriage licences, birth certificates, financial and other records are being systematically destroyed," he said.

"This attempt to rewrite history reminds me of *1984*, which I used to believe was fiction but now seems to be happening in reality."

German ministers talked yesterday for the first time about the existence of Yugoslav "concentration camps" in Kosovo. Rudolf Scharping, the German Defence Minister, said the evidence of such camps came from refugees flowing over the borders and from intercepted military communications.

On Nato's expanded targeting programme, the Nato spokesman said: "No facility, no unit that is being used to plan, conceive, direct or carry out the Yugoslav campaign against the Kosovans is going to be a sanctuary."

Diplomats said it was likely that missiles and bombs could be aimed at the Interior Ministry and Defence Ministry in Belgrade, and possibly the Socialist Party headquarters.

After a week of attacks, Nato said that 30 Yugoslav aircraft had been destroyed.

Alain Richard, the French Defence Minister, announced that France was also increasing the number of aircraft available for the next phase of the air campaign. Six Mirage jets are to be added to the 14 based at Istrana in Italy, where France also has six Jaguars.

Following Nato's rejection of Tuesday's peace mission to Belgrade by Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, Moscow announced that it had asked Turkey to allow part of the Black Sea Fleet to pass through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles into the Mediterranean.

Igor Sergeyev, the Russian Defence Minister, said he had asked for seven ships to sail through the straits to monitor the crisis in Kosovo.

However, last night Turkey said it had received a request for one reconnaissance ship to pass through the Bosphorus and had given its approval, as was required under the 1936 Montreux Convention. Washington said it was not "overly concerned" about the Russian move.

March, they said. I ran for it

FROM JANINE DI GIOVANNI IN LIVADHEG, KOSOVO

IT HAPPENED so quickly. I was sitting in my French colleagues' jeep waiting to drive down the mountain. We were the only journalists there when a jeep of angry Yugoslav army soldiers suddenly surrounded us. They pushed my colleague into the snow and aimed their Kalashnikovs at him. He screamed "no" and then they kicked and beat him. "March", they shouted at us, dragging me from the jeep.

Once out of sight we started to run and jumped in an empty truck that had been carrying refugees but we were stopped by a Serb army jeep who ordered us back up the mountain. Once they saw our passports, a Brit and two Frenchmen, they grew even more angry. "Mirage", they screamed. "Clinton, Nato, bombing Belgrade." They then took all our gear and when they found a snapshot of my colleagues working with UN troops they grew even more angry. They began firing and they ordered us into our car.

I felt for the first time that I might not make it out. Then they ordered us into our car and made us follow them down the other side of the mountain. Suddenly stopped. They gave us back our cameras and kissed me on the cheek. "Italiana," they said, "never come back here."

INSIDE

'Instead of just trying to bomb the Serbs into submission, perhaps we should offer them early membership of the European Union as soon as they can show they are civilised'

— Anatole Kaletsky, page 24

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11th-hour hope on Ulster deadlock

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR and Bertie Ahern raised hopes of an eleventh-hour deal to break the deadlock over IRA disarmament late yesterday by flying back to Northern Ireland for a third consecutive night of intensive talks.

Government sources said that a deal to save the Good Friday accord was now "doable" and that the two Prime Ministers would not have returned if there was no sign of Sinn Fein and Ulster Unionist leaders being willing to move from their positions.

However, for Gerry Adams and David Trimble any such movement would mean taking enormous political risks. As last night's talks began it was unclear if they would budge or if they could survive politically if they did.

Mr Adams has repeatedly said that he would split the IRA if he tried to deliver disar- [...] contain the usual blanket rejection of decommissioning. Mitchel McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's chairman, suggested that this was "an attempt to give space" to the republican movement's political leaders.

Mr Trimble would risk removal by his Ulster Unionist Party if he agreed to establish an executive with Sinn Fein without prior disarmament. Unionist assembly members are evenly divided over the accord.

Mr Blair said that there was "no reason why this can't be done and we won't be forgiven, any of us, if it is not done". Mr Ahern said: "We are so near. The differences are about timing and dates. The principles are established."

Sources said that the Government was determined to resolve the decommissioning issue one way or the other by the end of today. "We are not letting this drag into Good



"I'd like to get away at Easter if we knew of somewhere safe to go"

April heatwave

Britain will have the century's hottest start to April .. Page 20

£2bn to save Longbridge

The future of Britain's biggest car plant was safeguarded when a deal between the Government and the German car giant BMW paved the way for investment nearing £2 billion at Rover Longbridge. BMW is putting in £1.7 billion plus a

Lawrence judge rejects criticism

BY MAGNUS LINKLATER AND RICHARD FORD

THE author of the report into the Stephen Lawrence investigation, who found that there was institutional racism in the Metropolitan Police, today denies that he was biased or hijacked by his advisers.

Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, who came in for a barrage of criticism over the report, defends all 70 of the recommendations he made and backs the drive by Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner, to reform the force.

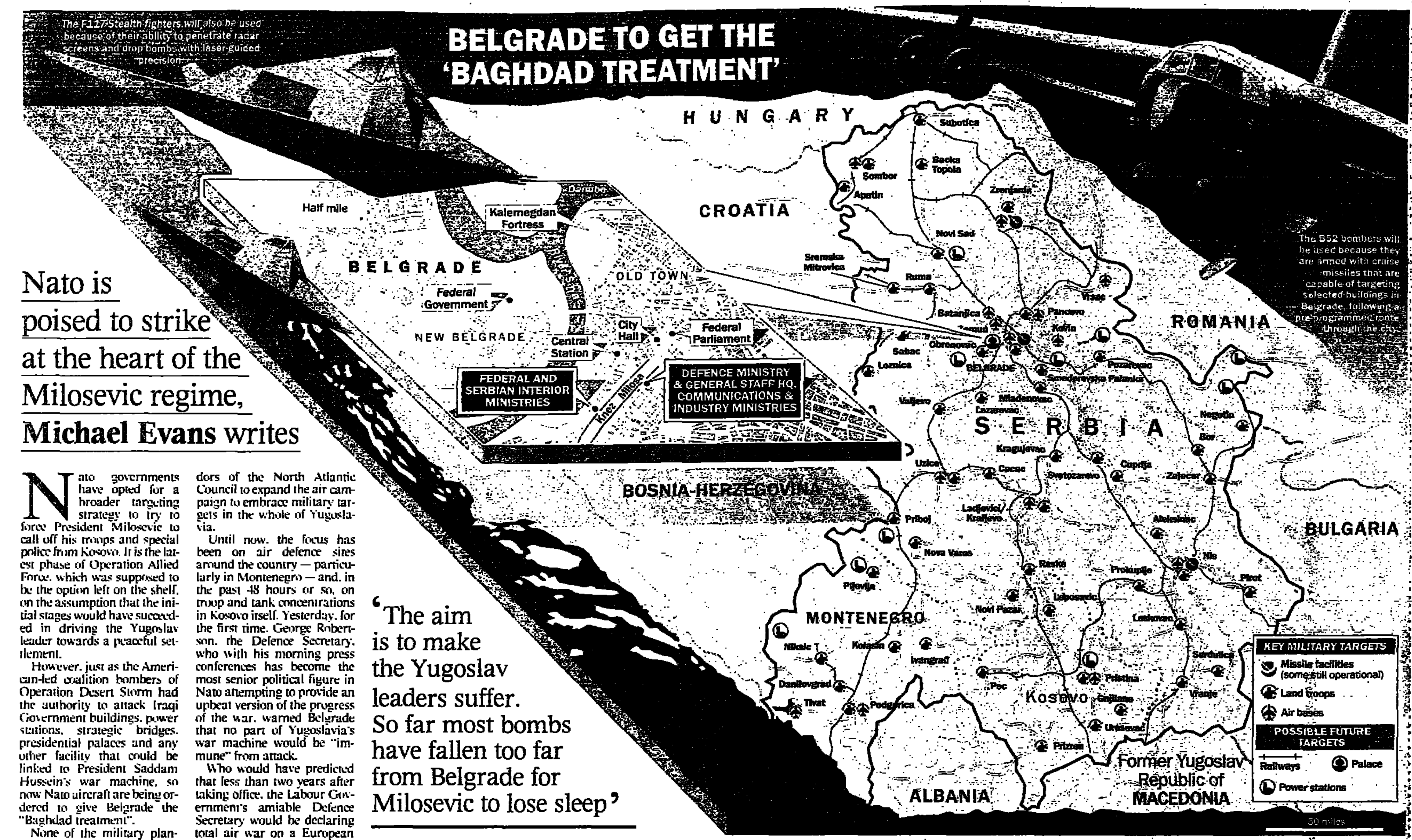
In his first interview since the report's publication, Sir William says there are pockets of racism in the police's lower ranks but is confident that Sir Paul can achieve change. "He's a courageous man. I think he is determined to change things."

The retired judge rejects accusations that as a Scot ignorant about young black people in South London, he was over sympathetic in conducting the [...] was summed up to me as the poisoned chalice of all time. I did not hold back and I never would, otherwise I should be guilty of the same sin as the detective chief superintendent who reviewed the first investigation". The report criticised DCS Barker for censoring himself when he carried out the review and producing a flawed and indefensible piece of work.

Sir William also rejects suggestions that he was influenced against his better judgment. "There was no attempt to hijack me by my adviser into reaching any conclusions or subject me to indoctrination."

He says that he did his best to be objective and that his recommendations were not a "selfish adventure". "I'm optimistic. I think the thrust of the report will come through".

He believes racism can be eliminated from the police force. "It's not endemic to the point of permanency".



Nato is poised to strike at the heart of the Milosevic regime, Michael Evans writes

Nato governments have opted for a broader targeting strategy to try to force President Milosevic to call off his troops and special police from Kosovo. It is the latest phase of Operation Allied Force, which was supposed to be the option left on the shelf, on the assumption that the initial stages would have succeeded in driving the Yugoslav leader towards a peaceful settlement.

However, just as the American-led coalition bombers of Operation Desert Storm had the authority to attack Iraqi Government buildings, power stations, strategic bridges, presidential palaces and any other facility that could be linked to President Saddam Hussein's war machine, so now Nato aircraft are being ordered to give Belgrade the "Baghdad treatment".

None of the military planners in the alliance had anticipated that within only six days of Operation Allied Force, they would have to be seeking authority from the 19 ambassadors of the North Atlantic Council to expand the air campaign to embrace military targets in the whole of Yugoslavia.

Until now, the focus has been on air defence sites around the country — particularly in Montenegro — and, in the past 48 hours or so, on troop and tank concentrations in Kosovo itself. Yesterday, for the first time, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, who with his morning press conferences has become the most senior political figure in Nato attempting to provide an upbeat version of the progress of the war, warned Belgrade that no part of Yugoslavia's war machine would be "immune" from attack.

Who would have predicted that less than two years after taking office, the Labour Government's amiable Defence Secretary would be declaring total air war on a European country?

For this is what the latest phase of Operation Allied Force implies. Assuming the weather over Yugoslavia clears up before long, Nato's heavyweight aircraft, the 13 US Air Force B52s and five B1B swing-wing bombers, all based at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, as well as an assortment of the most advanced ground attack planes in the world, will be targeting any and every facility linked to Mr Milosevic's military infrastructure.

> 'The aim is to make the Yugoslav leaders suffer. So far most bombs have fallen too far from Belgrade for Milosevic to lose sleep'

In particular, the aim of the latest phase will be to hit hardest at the facilities that are vital to the Yugoslav leadership, including the ministries in the centre of Belgrade that are linked to the oppression in Kosovo, power stations that keep Mr Milosevic's communications going in the capital, and even the presidential palace where he sometimes resides, although there are reports that he sleeps at different addresses for fear of being targeted.

The aim is to make the Yugoslav leadership itself suffer for its actions in Kosovo. So far, most of the bombs have fallen too far from Belgrade for Mr Milosevic to lose any sleep. This will change.

Although the latest phase has been authorised, there are no signs yet that the Nato armada is in a position to launch a campaign on this scale. The latest phase should have waited its turn until the initial phases had been adequately prosecuted. But now, because of the need to put the maximum military pressure on Mr Milosevic, all three phases are going to have to overlap — hitting air defences, Serb troops in Kosovo and going for the nationwide targets and Belgrade ministries.

That could require more aircraft than are now in Italy and elsewhere in Europe, let alone additional bombs and missiles. Even the mighty American war machine assembled in Italy and at RAF Fairford will need to stock up with more cruise missiles and guided bombs for Nato's final assault. There is not an inexhaustible supply. Mr Robertson and his fellow daily war presenter, General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, yesterday repeated their now familiar refrain, that even the expanded bombing will still have its limits because Nato does not want to be accused, and cannot afford to be accused, of hitting targets which are too close to civilian areas.

However, with the experience of the Baghdad bombing behind them, the Nato military planners who drew up the list of targets will have included any government departments which have a direct part to play in the "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo. These would include the Defence Ministry, Interior Ministry and possibly the Foreign Affairs Ministry, all of which are located in the same district of Belgrade.

The Interior Ministry, which is responsible for the ruthless MUP police units which have been causing terror among the ethnic Albanians, is at one end of a long street called Knez Milosa, at No 92. The Foreign Affairs Ministry is at No 24 and the Defence Ministry at No 29. There is also the Ministry of Industry at No 22 Nemanjina Street, which could be targeted because of connections to weapons production.

Nato has to play the role of mighty conqueror to get the message across to the Yugoslav people that Mr Milosevic is to blame for their suffering.

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American symbols feel city's wrath

Anger turns to panic in the streets, writes Tom Walker in Belgrade

BELGRADE residents hurried home in panic last night as fear spread throughout the city that Nato was about to bomb targets in the central area and around the plush Dedenje suburbs where President Milosevic lives.

At eight o'clock in the evening the streets were deserted, as the last trams and buses rattled through the blackness. Many street lamps were turned off, and in houses and apartment blocks residents stuck to their standard air raid drill, of closing shutters and opening windows to absorb any blasts and lessen the risk of flying glass.

The air raid warnings sounded early in the morning, and there was no all-clear. For the first time in the airstrikes campaign, those living in the city realised that Nato's threats were real. The few remaining diplomats feared widespread violence against Westerners and Western targets if the city centre is bombed.

Many Serbs have talked openly about burning down the US Embassy if the Ministry of Defence — just across the road — is attacked. The British Embassy is now also regarded as a legitimate target for public anger.

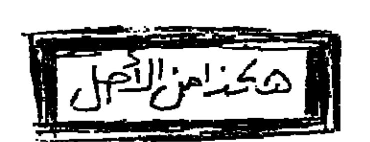
Army units gathered in city parks and tension increased in the affluent Dedenje suburb. Ambulances lay hidden down back streets, ready to ferry those injured in any blasts to the nearby military hospital. Guards outside Mr Milosevic's residence wore bullet proof jackets and helmets, and remained in their strengthened steel cabins.

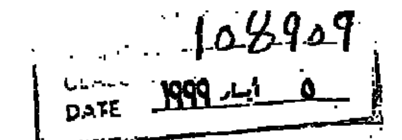
Belgrade's central McDonald's restaurant was a shattered mess this week, its broken windows boarded up and daubed with crude graffiti.

A few hundred yards away, on the pedestrianised Knez Mihajlova, the American cultural centre had received a fresh smattering of swastikas — perhaps one for every Nato cruise missile that has hit the city's outskirts. On the nearby Republican Square, the daily music against bombs, or rock against fascism, ploughed on, attended by thousands of youngsters and students with bullseye targets pinned to their chests and backs, although most have never been anywhere near Kosovo.

Across from the American cultural centre lies the undamaged Original Levi's Store, and many of those on the streets yesterday wore their Nike trainers and Champion tracksuits as easily as any of their contemporaries around the globe. American films were withdrawn from the city's cinemas only yesterday, and the sacking of McDonald's came only after four nights of airstrikes. What is easily forgotten is that, under Tito, Yugoslavia was considerably closer to America than its Slav ally, Russia.

"We were more often on good terms with America than Russia," said Aleksa Djilas, one of Belgrade's most eminent historians. "We really liked the Americans, and its hard to forget that."





Pristina's forced exodus jams roads for 60 miles

Kosovans lose their homes and now their identities, reports Sam Kiley in Morina, Albania

PRESIDENT Milosevic's plans to drive every Kosovo Albanian from their homes came to a head yesterday as his security forces drove up to 100,000 people out of Pristina, the province's capital, creating a huge traffic jam of buses which stretched *up to 60 miles from the border with* Albania.

Clearly intent on destabilising impoverished Albania, the Yugoslav President looked set for short-term success as immigration officials were overwhelmed by a workload of biblical proportions.

Trapped in no-man's-land between the two borders, the Kosovo Albanians waited patiently, sitting on the ground or in the backs of tractor trailers under the fluttering flags of the Serbian and Yugoslav republics. The ensigns were likely to be the last they would ever see of their homeland after Nato reported that Serb authorities had begun to wipe all Kosovo Albanians from the record books.

In what Jamie Shea, Nato's spokesman, called a process of "identity elimination", the authorities in Pristina were destroying all property records, marriage certificates, and birth certificates in an attempt to prevent Kosovo's Albanians from ever being able to return home.

The victims of the Milosevic pogrom leaned against the Albanian customs barriers like broken rag dolls. Many had been forced to walk for up to 20 miles by Serb death squads who stripped them of everything they owned.

Others were in a queue stretching all the way back to Prizren and beyond, waiting their turn for the final eradication of their claim to a home in the former Yugoslavia.

Diplomats, aid workers, and Albanian government officials, who had already coped with an influx of about 80,000 refugees since Saturday, stood aghast at the task that now awaited them.

"There is no way this little country is going to cope with this exodus. This is the sort of scene we have seen in Goma and elsewhere in Africa. But nothing like this has ever happened in Europe. It is a nightmare, a total nightmare," said one exhausted Westerner working for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The nightmare is not merely one of logistics and how to cope with a humanitarian catastrophe. For thousands of families, it has been a living hell. Many spoke of how they had been ordered out of their homes and forced to march past the dead bodies of young men tortured and gunned down by Serbs.

One family of refugees, which like many refused to be identified, said they had seen tens of corpses thrown in to a mass grave at the village of Pirana, near Prizren.

"There are lots of men being taken away to be held in camps. Local people we passed, some of them Serbs themselves, said that we should tell *the outside world that they are being* tortured and killed in the camps," said one elderly woman who demonstrated how she had seen a boy of about ten have his hand cut off by swiping at her grand-daughter's hand.

Yesterday it was impossible to estimate the number of refugees driven out of Kosovo by this kind of terror. Some said that they thought the queue of vehicles stretched all the way to Pristina, about 60 miles from Morina. They were certain that the line went back to Prizren, about 30 miles.

"You have to be good at numbers. Think, most are in buses, that's about 70 people each bus, and the buses are nose to tail for further than the eye can see," said one English teacher waiting to enter Albania.

But Albanian authorities who have been working closely with the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) had a little "good" news for them.

They said that the KLA, its ranks swelled by young men fleeing murder in their villages, had been fighting ferociously and, backed by Nato airstrikes, had destroyed 17 tanks yesterday, and ambushed an armoured column of 20 vehicles involved in President Milosevic's orchestrated horrors.



A child rummages through cast-off clothes in a Tirana refugee camp

A woman stands outside her tent at a makeshift camp in Tirana. The country has taken in 80,000 refugees since Saturday *Pictures: Richard Pohle*

Kosovan killed in Calais shooting

Friends say exile wanted to flee to Britain, report Adam Sage and Stephen Farrell

A KOSOVAN man was killed and three others injured in Calais when a gunman opened fire after an argument between traffickers smuggling refugees into Britain.

British tourists watched as the pitched battle broke out at the ferry terminal at the Channel port, and a stray bullet lodged in one Briton's camper van.

Witnesses said that the gunman, who is thought to be a Kosovan, pulled out a pistol and fired on a group of about ten other Kosovans in the lorry park at the port. A 30-year-old man, who was hit in the throat, died instantly and two others were seriously injured. Police were waiting to question them in hospital last night. The gunman, who was beaten by other Kosovans, was also taken to hospital.

One British tourist who was sleeping in his camper van in the ferry port terminal car park said: "All of a sudden I heard shots and I saw two people collapse. One was killed outright and fell on his back in front of a row of coaches. A third man whose leg was injured hid under a parked car.

"One bullet lodged in the door of my camping-van."

Police arrived quickly and questioned four or five people thought to have been involved in the brawl. They found ten .22 calibre bullets at the scene.

Friends of the dead man, who said his name was Kastria, arrived last night accompanied by a group of local girls to lay flowers. They said that Kastria had fled to Alba-

... lice source said: "The person who died and the two injured were ethnic Albanians from Kosovo, but they are based in Calais. They have a flat here.

"They might well have been traffickers, but as they lead a clandestine existence, it is obviously difficult to check."

The shootout added to already mounting tension in Calais as ethnic Albanians flee the Balkan war in the hope of finding refuge in Britain.

"This was waiting to happen," said a port worker who asked not to be named. "We have been warning the authorities for weeks about the problems we face each night. Even the lorry drivers are afraid and don't want to sleep in their cabs in the port's car park any more."

Yannick Imbert, the deputy prefect of the Calais region said that up to 50 refugees arrived in the port each night, the majority of them from Kosovo. French officials expect the numbers of asylum seekers to rise sharply over the next few weeks. Ferry companies refuse to transport the Kosovans, who are systematically turned away by the British immigration authorities.

"Most try to slip into the ...

... said M Imbert. The French authorities yesterday announced a £10,000 plan to tighten security at the Calais port, but M Imbert said that networks of Kosovan traffickers established in Calais were determined to exploit desperate refugees.

Eric Dylla, immigration director with the ferry company SeaFrance said that Calais-based traffickers touted for custom in the town's central square, charging up to £1,000 to put refugees in contact with a lorry driver willing to take them.

"They put some of them in the boots of private cars," he said. "There is a stream of people wanting to reach the British El Dorado. They are prepared to do anything to get there, but they have no chance of doing so legally."

One Kosovan, Avni Ahmeti, said last night that he, his wife and their three young children, had spent 24 hours sleeping with 10 other Kosovans in a corridor at the ferry terminal. They have little hope of travelling to Britain legally without travel documents, which they say were seized en route. Mr Ahmeti, a roadbuilder, said that he left Kosovo seven days ago when the bombing began, walking into Albania, crossing to Italy by boat and then travelling from Bari to Milan, Paris and Calais by train.

Another Kosovan, Flamur Bajraktari, 17, said: "Until ten days ago, I was fighting, but now there is no point. We can take on the Serbs on the ground, but we can't combat

BALKANS WAR: BRITAIN'S RELIEF RESPONSE

Old army camps readied for influx

Kosovan Albanians fleeing the Serb ethnic cleansing find a temporary refuge, **Richard Ford** writes

ARMY camps and disused care homes are being prepared as emergency accommodation for Kosovans arriving in Britain after fleeing their homes.

The Home Office has drawn up plans to use disused military camps and empty houses owned by local councils and health authorities as temporary shelter for refugees.

Kent County Council said it was preparing for a possible influx of ethnic Albanians. The council has set aside a former home for the elderly in Ashford as emergency accommodation for refugees. Staff and other centres in the county were also on standby to cope with any sudden arrival of large numbers of refugees.

Officials from a number of government departments, including the Home Office and the Foreign Office, met for two hours yesterday to discuss the Government's response to the refugee crisis.

But the Government does not expect a huge number of Kosovans to seek asylum in the UK because it is relying on countries closer to the conflict to provide emergency accommodation. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said: "A very high proportion will be wanting to return to their own homes when it is safe to do so."

He said there were no plans to relax the way in which every application for asylum must be judged on its individual merits.

He also said although there had been a lot of discussions in the European Union about member states sharing the asylum burden, no agreement had been reached.

Refugees are supposed to claim asylum in the first safe country of refuge and ministers are hoping that this will lead to the vast majority being accommodated in countries close to the Kosovo border.

Refugees who arrive at an English port and claim asylum are given temporary admission while their full claim to have a "well founded fear of persecution" is investigated.

If they apply immediately on arrival, an asylum seeker is entitled to 90 per cent of income support benefits. The current income support levels are £30.30 a week for a single person under 18, £39.85 for those aged 18-24 and £50.35 for those aged 25 and over. A couple with both partners under 18 gets £60.10. A dependent child up to 12 gets £17.30.

In addition, an asylum seeker applying on arrival can get all his rent paid through housing benefit. Asylum seekers are entitled to NHS treatment and education for their children.

However, they are barred from working for the first six months after arriving in the UK. An asylum seeker who does not apply immediately on arrival is barred from benefits. Instead of state benefits, local authorities provide food and clothes through food parcels or vouchers. Housing is provided in hostels or bed-and-breakfast hotels.

☐ **Church appeal:** The Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, and Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, are among senior church leaders who yesterday voiced growing concern about the continued Nato bombing of Kosovo and Serbia (Ruth Gledhill and Jason Allardyce write). They united in calling for a return to the negotiating table at the earliest opportunity.

Other Anglican bishops expressed growing doubts about the Nato action, with one calling for a ceasefire over Easter. The church leaders also strengthened their calls for aid to help the refugees in the "humanitarian crisis".



An ethnic Albanian family waits at Calais yesterday, uncertain of its legal status

UN sees hunger threat to refugees

By Elizabeth Judge

THOUSANDS of Kosovan refugees face starvation within ten days if relief workers cannot reach them, according to the UN.

Appealing for international help, it said it was having serious difficulties getting food to the fleeing ethnic Albanians. Catherine Bertini, Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme, said: "The situation is far worse than we had anticipated. This is just the beginning of a potential humanitarian catastrophe."

In the past few days around 100.000 ethnic Albanians have fled. About 70.000 have poured into Albania, Europe's poorest country, 20.000 into Macedonia and 10.000 into Montenegro. It is expected that 80.000 more will flee into Albania and tens of thousands more into Montenegro and Macedonia.

Charities prepare to launch huge appeal for aid

By Adrian Lee

THE first consignments of British aid for refugees from Kosovo began arriving yesterday with the promise that more help was on the way. An RAF flight, carrying blankets and tents, left RAF Lyneham, in Wiltshire yesterday, bound for Macedonia. An earlier flight arrived in Tirana.

Clare Short, the International Development Minister, said there would be another eight in the next week. A team of government monitors will also travel to Albania at the weekend.

As leading British charities confirmed that a joint appeal would be launched after Easter, the Government said it was considering matching all money donated by the public.

The appeal will involve 15 of Britain's leading charities, including Oxfam, the Red Cross, Help the Aged and Tear Fund, and includes broadcasts by the BBC and ITV.

A spokesman for the Disasters Emergency Committee, which is co-ordinating the campaign, said: "We are approaching the broadcasters for slots early next week."

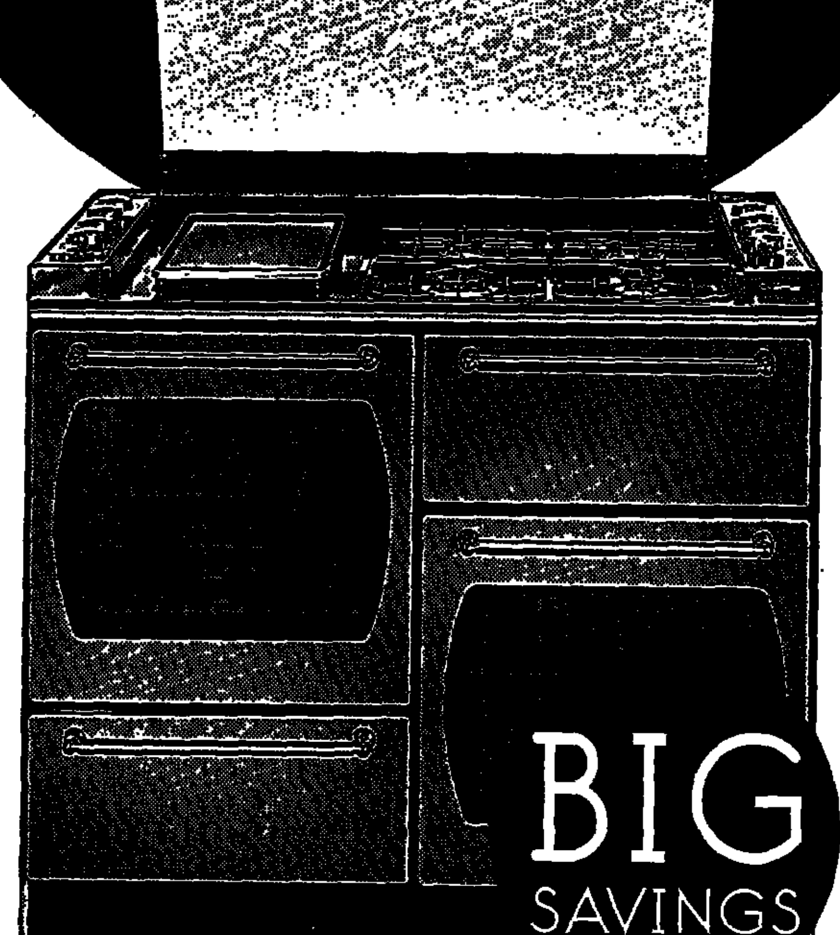
The appeal will be the fourth in a year, following Sudan (May 1998), Bangladesh (September 1998) and Hurricane Mitch in Central America (November 1998). Previously there had not been an appeal for four years. The combined total raised last year was more than £30 million. The organisers said that the possibility of the public's "donation fatigue" was discussed before agreeing to proceed.

Public figures will be approached in the next few days to promote the campaign.

Smaller organisations, such as International Care and Relief (ICR), which has raised £100.000 for refugees in the last seven months, fear they could be squeezed out. ICR, which has 11 staff based in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, claims it was the first organisation to react to the impending crisis in Kosovo. The money it needs to continue sending food parcels could now be donated to the higher-profile joint appeal.

"We cannot compete with some of the bigger agencies," said Paul Tuohy, ICR's head of fundraising.

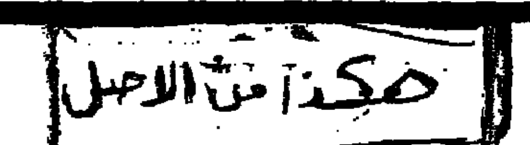
British Muslims announced yesterday that they were donating £500.000 to the relief effort.











BALKANS WAR: IN SEARCH OF A HAVEN

West is braced for wave of asylum seekers

Britain will be under pressure to accept some Kosovans, writes Michael Binyon

ETHNIC Albanians continued to flood across Kosovo's borders yesterday as Nato countries braced themselves for a tide of refugees spreading across Western Europe.

As they mass on the borders of their former homeland or seek shelter in Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, many Kosovans are planning desperate journeys to Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Britain. But most are likely to end up in internment camps and makeshift shelters. Most Western doors remain shut to the Kosovans.

The mass exodus is overwhelming neighbouring Montenegro, which has taken in 20,000 refugees, Macedonia with some 14,000 and Albania which has accepted more than 100,000. Although Western aid is being rushed to these countries in an attempt to keep the refugees in the region, there is a growing realisation that, with so many leaving, the West will have to accept many of those who make their way north and west.

The refugees may have no choice but to move on: the World Food Organisation gave a warning yesterday that starvation loomed inside Kosovo within two weeks. President Chirac of France called for European Union ministers to meet next week to organise emergency aid.

Next week Western nations will hold an emergency summit in Geneva, called by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to decide whether to set quotas for the admission of refugees. Many countries, including Britain, will resist any such calls.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, insisted that the West should not connive in President Milosevic's "ethnic cleansing", and Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, told the Commons yesterday that it would have been an "appalling act of complicity" to have set up a network of reception camps in advance.

But Greece argues that to leave the Kosovans in Macedonia risks destabilising all the southern Balkans. Austria, in a policy volte-face, announced yesterday that it is prepared to accept 10,000 Kosovan refugees who have arrived there.

Most Kosovo Albanians try to join ethnic kinsmen who left Albania in the wake of the 1997 civil war. The target countries are Germany, still seen as a haven despite tougher new laws and antipathy to foreigners; Britain, where conditions are deemed favourable for those able to get in; and Switzerland, which has an Albanian community of 25,000.

The main conduit is Italy. Albanians are constantly crossing the Adriatic in perilous craft and many escape from reception camps. Once in Italy, they can slip across the borders of all other countries inside the Schengen agreement.

The cost is high. A middleman in Tirana charges about $2,000 (£1,240) to arrange a ferry over the Adriatic. Mafia rings control the smuggling of thousands of people each year, earning up to $4 billion.

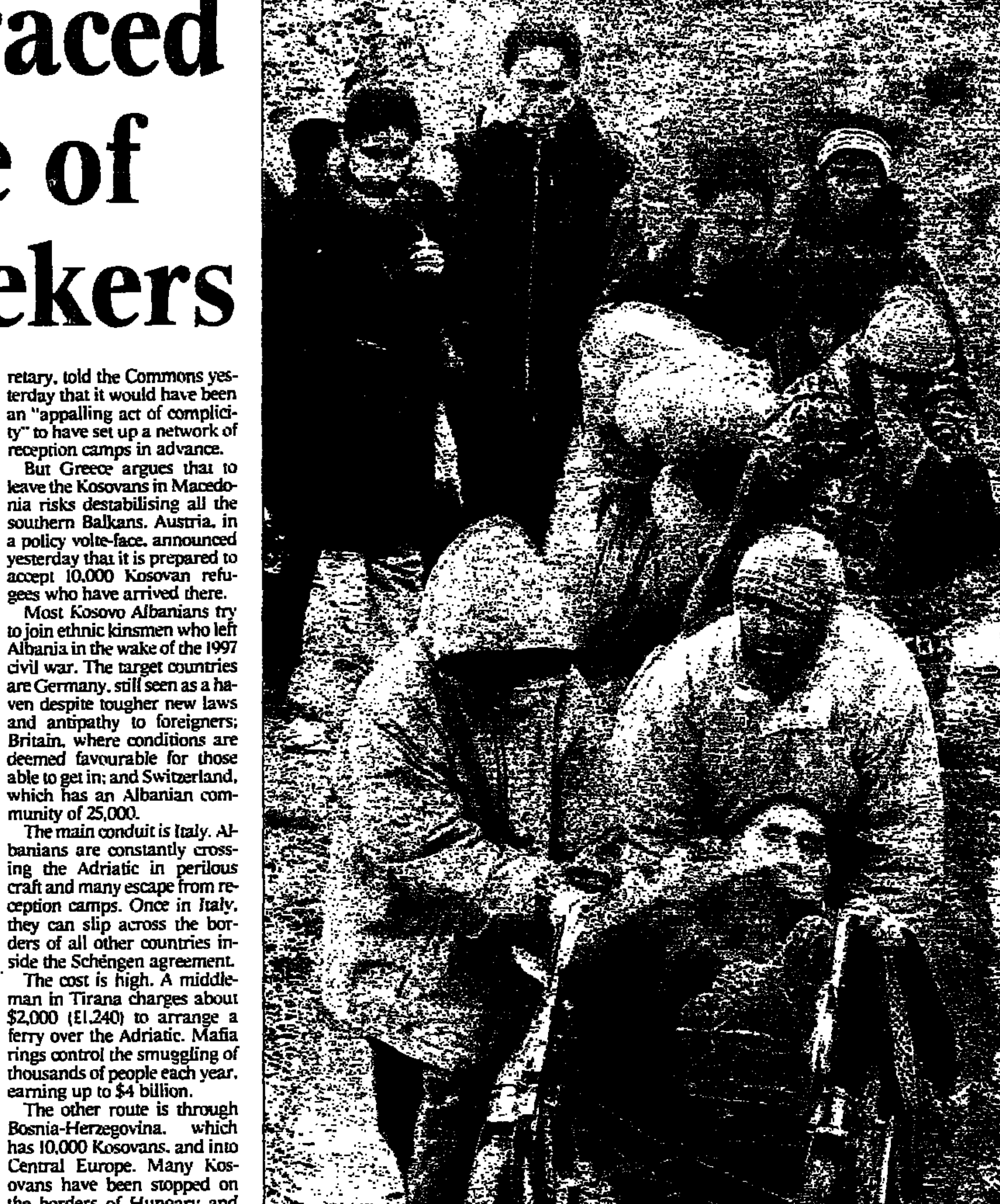
The other route is through Bosnia-Herzegovina, which has 10,000 Kosovans, and into Central Europe. Many Kosovans have been stopped on the borders of Hungary and the Czech Republic; most were heading for Germany.

The UNHCR says that 100,000 people from Yugoslavia — the vast majority from Kosovo — are now looking for asylum in Western Europe.

Legal entry to Britain is almost impossible. The Home Office says it looks "sympathetically" on Kosovan asylum applicants. But to enter Britain all need visas, stamped on valid travel papers and issued at Britain's Belgrade Embassy — which is now shut.

SWEDEN 3,900
Key: route of fleeing refugees
BOSNIA 10,000 number of refugees
BRITAIN 10,400
GERMANY 40,100
Calais
AUSTRIA 7,700
SWITZERLAND 25,000
BOSNIA 10,000
MONTENEGRO 20,000
FRANCE
MACEDONIA 14,000
ITALY 3,000
SPAIN
ALBANIA 100,000
TURKEY 3,000
500 miles
Mediterranean Sea

LAURENT REBOURS / AP



A group of ethnic Albanian refugees crosses into Macedonia from Kosovo yesterday

Slippers and prams on icy road to exile



Janine di Giovanni reports from Rozaje on the tide of weeping innocents fleeing the death squads

They are coming across the freezing border on bicycles, or walking, pushing babies in prams. They're in their slippers. They wear plastic bags on their heads to shield them from the snow. They carry whatever they can.

They came overnight, most of them from Pec, Kosovo's second largest city, which they say has been bombarded and burnt, its hospitals destroyed.

This is the suffering of the innocent who know little of politics. As one man told me: "It is history that has done this. In the Balkans we have too much history."

Beyond the crossing-point in Montenegro one old woman sat in the deep snow weeping. A pregnant woman gathered her four children around her. One woman, Alma Sahi, 29, managed to get out with her four children but anxiously stops every passing tractor filled with refugees to find her two brothers.

From Rozaje, if they are lucky, they go by bus to the south coast of Montenegro. There they register with the United Nations and are given food. They try to find their families and recover from the trauma. One of the men, Riza Belani, told me how masked men came to his house in Pec shortly after dusk on Thursday. They jumped the wall outside and began smashing windows. When his brother Namik, 30, answered the door, they did not ask questions. They shot him in the forehead. Riza heard the gunshots and ran outside. He took his dying brother's pulse, but he was kicked to the ground and blindfolded, then the masked men left. Two days later they returned. They took the family car and told Mr Belani to get his remaining family and leave Kosovo. "Nato will take care of you," they jeered.

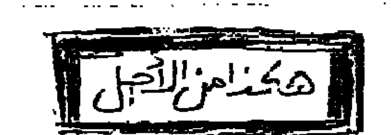
He walked with his family, crossing into Montenegro, coming into Rozaje. From there he was taken to a crisis centre on the Montenegrin coast, where he does not know where he will go.

"A lot of people are crossing, but a lot of people are dead!" screamed Vasmia Vosaj, a teacher from Pec who crossed with her husband, another teacher, and her two children.

She described the horror of Pec burning. "The hospitals are gone ... they took all the sick people who were Albanians out of the hospital. My neighbour, a Serb, who I've known for years, came and became my enemy. They killed doctors, teachers, anything alive."

She paid DM100 (about £35) to Serb police at the Kosovo border for the privilege of leaving her country. A Montenegrin had offered them shelter for one night. "After that," she wept, "I don't know where I will go."

I have not seen any UN workers here today. These people appear to be left to fend for themselves. As I write this from the mountain-top checkpoint, it is freezing cold and those left outside will not survive the night. An old woman sits next to me in my colleague's car. We picked her up walking along the road alone. She carries an umbrella and has not said one word since we found her.



Serbs 'get defence tips from Saddam'

By Michael Evans
Defence Editor

TWO of the world's most ruthless dictators are now comparing notes and swapping experiences to help Belgrade to outwit the Nato bombers.

General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, said yesterday that contacts between Yugoslavia's President Milosevic and Iraq's President Saddam Hussein had already yielded noticeable results.

Early last month, he said, a Serb delegation toured Iraqi air defence sites, "no doubt to learn tactics on how to down allied aircraft. We have seen some of these Iraqi tactics put into practice already over Serbia," he said.

Although he gave no details, there has been evidence of the Yugoslav Army hiding its surface-to-air missiles and constructing dummy Sam sites to foil Nato bombers. Baghdad probably also advised Belgrade to preserve the most potent Sam systems, such as the Sam 6, until a later point in the allied air campaign.

General Guthrie added: "Whatever assistance he receives from Saddam, Milosevic's enterprise will not succeed."

Cruise missiles wreck oven factory

Serbia mocks the precision of Nato weaponry that destroyed domestic appliances, reports Tom Walker

THREE days earlier it had been an American Stealth fighter-bomber that was the first officially displayed casualty of Yugoslavia versus Nato: yesterday it was nothing more than several thousand domestic appliances.

Anxious to please a journalist pack frustrated by the reporting confines of Belgrade, the Yugoslav Army escorted its second official press trip south of the dreaded 44th parallel to the central Serbian towns of Kragujevac and Cacak. At the first port of call two cruise missiles had destroyed empty warehouses on the edge of a military base; at the second, four cruises had apparently wrecked the Yugoslav white goods industry.

The mystified management of Sloboda Cacak, a third of whose factory is now a mass of twisted metal and concrete, were at a loss to explain why their factory had been blown apart in twin Nato missile attacks on Sunday morning and again on Tuesday. They left holes 30ft deep and 40ft across, and wrecked sheds the size of football pitches.

"Last year Sloboda celebrated 50 years, and two days ago we received the strongest congratulations from Nato," said Radomir Lujic, the general director. "We employed 5,000 people, and that means 20,000 locally are now without bread. You will no doubt write that this is an ammunition factory, like Nato says, but I invite you to look inside." State television has had no better explanation for the pounding of Cacak than that Nato's military planners had somehow been inspired by Graham Greene's *Our Man in Havana*, in which a British spy works as a vacuum-cleaner salesman. In this instance, carpet cleaning in Serbia has been put back by years.

Three coachloads of journalists scavenged about the factory, chased by police anxious to keep prying eyes away from several untouched sections. "There are unexploded Nato mines in there," said one officer. When a Chinese cameraman sought to relieve himself in the bushes, he was warned by the army's press liaison officer to beware of more non-exploded devices.

The Nato menace was everywhere.

Further east the attacks on Kragujevac seemed to fit more easily with Nato's military plan. The destroyed sheds were obviously military, although they appeared to serve little purpose, and a more obvious target seemed to be down the road in the shape of the Zastava arms factory, the oldest in Serbia.

Kragujevac's economy relies on the faltering fortunes of the Yugo car plant; in the spring sunshine yesterday, it appeared a Dagenham with daffodils, in which 180,000 people have dissociated themselves from Western nations they once judged as friends. The people showed their pain yesterday in a long and dignified procession through the wooded park above the town, where around 20,000 gathered around a V-shaped concrete monument symbolising a pair of broken wings. Kragujevac suffered the worst massacre visited on any Serbian town by the Nazis in the Second World War: 5,000, including entire high-school classes, were slaughtered here in October 1941 as the Germans vowed to take 100 Serb lives for that of every German soldier killed, and 50 for every one wounded. "We were afraid of Nato's bombs, but now who cares?" said Milentir Obradovic, as he made his way to the monument.

A language professor, his father, who died in 1981, had been taken prisoner by the Germans and eventually transported to Auschwitz. "He would not have understood the British and French of today," he said. The football team, FC Kragujevac, jogged past, resplendent in their red tops symbolic of the blood spilt by the town. Even the street names of Kragujevac are written in red, unlike the customary blue found elsewhere. It is a lifeblood of Serbia that all those questioned said they would spill again for Kosovo. "I have visited all its towns, thanks to God, and I will go there again," vowed Milan Petrovic, who described how his mother hid from the Germans. "I never thought we would enter the 21st century like this."



The remains of domestic ovens at the Sloboda factory in Cacak, which was targeted twice during the allied airstrikes and blown apart

'Wolf' in Easter appeal

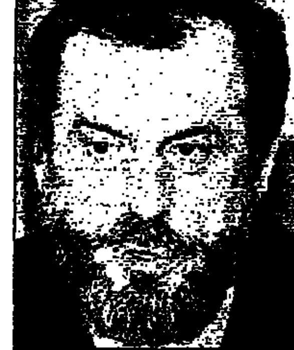
By Roger Boyes

VUK DRASKOVIC, the Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister, called yesterday for an Easter break in the Nato bombardment. "Even the Americans in Vietnam interrupted their bombing during the Christian holidays," he told the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

Fluent in English, witty and with ex-dissident credentials, Mr Draskovic is the media-friendly face of a regime run by hard-boiled apparatchiks.

It was he who reversed Belgrade's decision to expel foreign correspondents and it is he who speaks on CNN. He appeals to Christian sentiment while Serbian thugs conduct their bloody Kosovo mission.

"The Christian world is celebrating Good Friday and Easter — first Catholics and Protestants, then seven days later Orthodox. I will be interested to see if Nato in these ten days will continue to bomb a Christian and European people so that an Islamic ethnically-pure Albanian state can set itself up on territory that is a cultural and spiritual foundation of the Serbs," he said.



Draskovic: travelling salesman of the regime

Mr Draskovic's words have to be judged against his remarkable transition from a tribune of the street and student protests against Mr Milosevic to his role as travelling salesman of the regime.

The Serb nationalist commutes easily between the inner circle of power and its apparent opponents; that is his appeal to Mr Milosevic, and his danger. One day someone will have to replace Mr Milosevic, and Vuk (the name means wolf) would like the job.

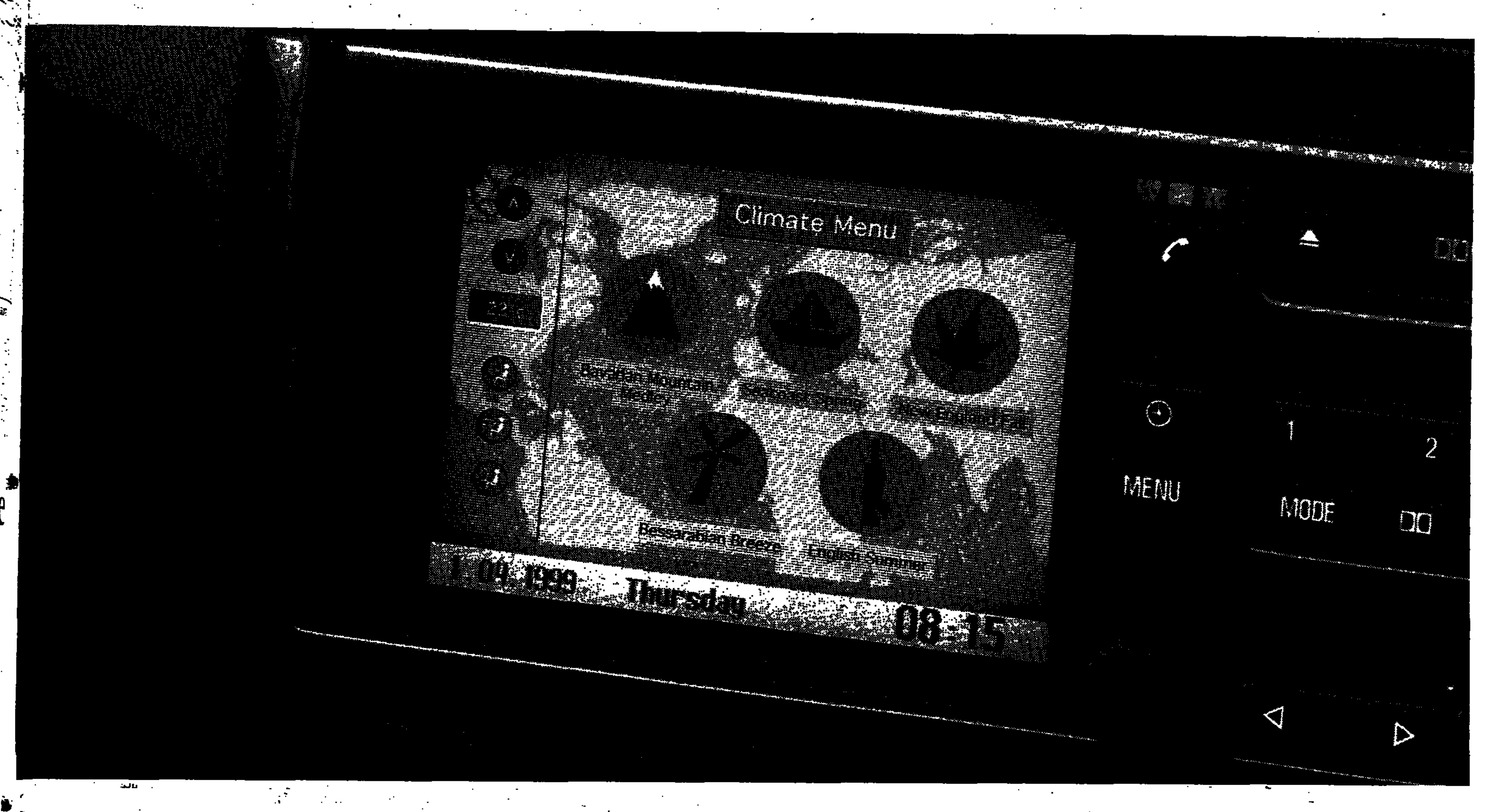
Mr Draskovic studied law in Belgrade. In the student revolution of 1968 he was on the side of the ultra-Leftists fighting the Tito regime. As leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement, he played a central part in student protests against the Milosevic regime. He and his wife Danica were beaten up.

The turning point came in 1996. Together with the pro-Western liberal, Zoran Djindjic, he formed a united opposition front to Milosevic and by the spring of 1997 Mr Djindjic was elected Belgrade's mayor.

Mr Draskovic then allowed himself to be used by Mr Milosevic, turning against the newly-minted mayor and shattering the opposition.

There are many chameleons in Belgrade, but none quite as slippery as Mr Draskovic.

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The Ultimate Driving Machine

Whiff of gunboat nostalgia fails to enliven the Commons treadmill

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

A year has passed (Labour's Sally Keeble told the Prime Minister) since serious flooding in Northampton — remembered there with pain. "What message does my Rt Hon Friend have," asked a tremulous Ms Keeble, "for Northampton?"

One pondered this. How about: "Sorry your carpets got wet, but thank your lucky stars you have not been shelled, raped, robbed, herded into pens and driven at gunpoint over the border into Warwickshire, your homes burning behind you". Tony Blair resisted temptation, and promised to keep Ms Keeble informed of something or other. Moments later we were back in Kosovo, discussing genocide. Then it was BMW's plans for Longbridge.

This was Commons's last afternoon before the Easter Recess, and a pretty scrappy occasion it was. MPs lurched from yah-booh-sucks Tory-bashing, to the murder of Albanians, to the difficulties of taking out an ISA.

Tempting to sigh that an assembly which so jumbles together the grave with the trivial has lost that ancient sense of occasion our great-grandfathers' MPs would instinctively have felt. Tempting, but probably wrong. As the spirit of the old British Empire enters the body of its new incarnation — deputy chief constable to the New World Order — our Parliament is returning to old, habits, not learning new ones.

In the heyday of imperial expansion it would not have been odd for British MPs to salute the dispatch of a gunboat to the Persian Gulf, pass a Private Bill facilitating construction of a railway from Hull to Goole, regret the loss of a battalion of guards at the hands of Afghan tribesmen near the Khyber, and authorise funds for the establishment of a royal infirmary in Derby.

And some of the instincts being stirred this week at Westminster do feel old-fashioned. The Left, unsure whether the bombing of Serbia is to be deplored as Yankee-inspired neo-imperialism or embraced as the New Internationalism for which their forefathers volunteered in 1930s Catalonia, are all over the place.

The Right, torn between a spontaneous "Hurrah!" at the smell of blood from the battlefield, and a spontaneous "Harrumph!" at the sight of red ink on the Treasury books, are just as bewildered.

And as for the Press in our gallery upstairs — is it Clobba Slobba and Back our Brave Boys Blitzing Belgrade Bullies? Or is it Save our Servicemen, Sucked into a new Suez by Swaggering Statesmen with more Sanctimony than Sense? Here too confusion reigns as we prepare to assume the prerogative of all journalists: to come down from the hills when the battle is over, and bayonet the wounded.

In short, it would have been unrealistic to expect from Prime Minister's Questions (or indeed Answers) anything, yesterday you could call meaningful.

Instead we had a lucky dip: reach into sawdust and — Question 6 — up pops William Hague, bothered about the demise of Peps and Tessas. Dip again and — yes, it's the Liberal Democrats' Alan Beith, advising Mr Blair to prepare our troops for action in a Kosovo protectorate. Or Mr Hague, plugging a pound for pound special charity offer by Government to help homeless Albanians. Or Eric Forth (C. Chislehurst) on IRA bombers ... who did appear to have done more damage in an afternoon at Canary Wharf than all our Harriers in a week in Serbia. He could have suggested sub-contracting the IRA for Balkan operations.

Cruise stocks dwindle

Ben Macintyre in Washington on ammunition crisis

THE Pentagon has acknowledged that it is running low on cruise missiles, just a week into the intensive bombardment of Yugoslavia.

The US Air Force has already used at least a fifth of its available stock of 150 cruise missiles fitted with conventional warheads since the bombing campaign began, and the Navy's much larger supply is dwindling even faster.

There is no cruise missile production line now in operation in the US, and the armed forces have urgently applied for government funds to stave off an embarrassing shortage.

"We have a supply now, but it won't last for ever," Kenneth Bacon, the Pentagon spokesman, said. He said the declining stock of one of the most effective and popular weapons in the American arsenal was "something we do worry about." The conventional air-launched cruise missile (CALCM) is the air force long-range bomb of choice — able to target strongly-defended targets with remarkable accuracy, while exposing the pilot to only limited danger. A single B52 bomber, such as those flying from Fairford, can attack targets 1,500 miles away with up to 20 cruise missiles, each carrying a 3,000lb warhead.

Cruise missile reserves have been seriously depleted by recent airstrikes on Iraq. In December about 400 were fired by the US Air Force and Navy at Iraqi targets. The air force fired 90 of the missiles during Operation Desert Fox.

"The stocks of air-launched cruise missiles are limited, and it's something we're addressing," Mr Bacon said. The air force has applied to Congress for permission to convert 92 cruise missiles equipped with nuclear warheads into conventional missiles at a cost of $51 million (£31 million), while the US Navy has asked for an emergency appropriation of $113 million to upgrade 324 sea-launched cruise missiles.

The Pentagon insists there are enough left to "continue striking important targets". But there is no end to the bombing campaign in sight, and at the present rate of striking, the US Air Force could use up all its remaining cruise missiles before the end of the month.

Military experts say the US has other long-range bombs, but running out of cruise missiles — a weapon highly rated since the Gulf War — could have a highly damaging effect on public opinion.

"It would be pretty embarrassing to have a war and then run out of ammunition," Colonel Jo Collins, a retired Pentagon official and senior analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said.

Each air-launched cruise missile costs around $1.9 million, while the sea-launched Tomahawk cruise costs more than $1 million. The Pentagon is currently developing a successor to the air-launched conventional cruise — the Air-to-surface Standoff missile — but this is not due to go into production before 2002. The last new air-launched cruise missile was made in 1986, while no nuclear-equipped missiles have been converted into conventional weapons since 1993.

Some analysts, blaming the Clinton Administration for cutting military budgets, say the shortage is part of a wider problem of under-funding of the armed forces, which are now facing problems of too few recruits and equipment that is often outdated and in short supply.

A recent memo to the Pentagon from Air Combat Command, which oversees US aircraft based in Europe such as those at Fairford, complained: "Operational units are suffering". The memo, obtained by *The Washington Times*, said "inadequate funding" had left aircrews with "few serviceable spare engines [and] depleted wartime spare kits".

IVAN MILUTINOVIC / REUTERS



Arkan with his wife Ceca at a recent Belgrade protest against Nato airstrikes.

Arkan on war criminal list

By Roger Boyes

ARKAN, the bloodthirsty Serbian militia leader whose supporters are burning Kosovo, has been indicted as a war criminal by the United Nations Tribunal in The Hague.

The disclosure of his position on the wanted list by the tribunal's chief prosecutor, Louise Arbour, will not come as a surprise to the police forces of Holland, Italy, Sweden, Finland, Belgium and Croatia which all have open arrest warrants on the man whose group, known as the Tigers, was murdering and looting in the Croatian and Bosnian wars as well as in Kosovo.

However, the court action does mark a turning point: the pursuit of suspected war criminals, rarely identified lest they go underground, is now a major priority and will be a way of measuring whether the war is a success for Nato. Mrs Arbour said yesterday that the exact terms of the indictment would remain under seal until Arkan's arrest.

"In light of the recent reports of his alleged involvement in Kosovo, I have decided to make public the existence of an indictment against Zeljko Raznatovic, otherwise known as Arkan. I have obtained an order from the judge today that the warrant for his arrest be made public, and attempts are being made now to serve that warrant."

So far Arkan has little to fear. A day after being identified by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, as one of those leading the killing in Kosovo, he appeared in Belgrade with his two small children. In the age of mobile telephones he does not have to leave town to spread terror.

The German Society for Threatened Peoples, a human rights group, calculates that his Tigers are responsible for 24,000 deaths.

Interpol has longstanding warrants out for his arrest: the crimes include suspected involvement in murders and burglaries in Milan, Stockholm and Brussels. In Belgium he broke out of jail. Croatia has drawn up charges on 21 murder counts.

He is married to a pop singer called Svetlana "Ceca" Velickovicwho gave up her tight leather outfits to become a dutiful wife and mother in their vast bunker-like house.

Waiting game puts alliance resolve to the test

Serb strategy aims to drive wedge into Nato unity, Charles Bremner writes from Brussels

NATO is racing against time on two fronts in its Kosovo offensive. While allied aircraft are rushing to rescue the Kosovo Albanians from the Serb forces, the political leaders are struggling to save their unity in the face of signs of dissent among their shakier members.

Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, says the extraordinary resolve with which all 19 Nato governments backed military action is glowing testimony to a sense of moral purpose as the alliance transforms itself from a Cold War machine to multinational peace enforcer.

Musing on the week's campaigns, Señor Solana said it was impressive that German and Italian aircraft had been ordered into action by left-wing governments in the same month that Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary — former members of the Warsaw Pact — had joined the alliance. The German decision "took tremendous courage", he said. "I think we should get a little bit emotional about all this."

However, the Western partners are in no doubt that a primary goal of President Milosevic is to drive a wedge through the alliance, splitting the United States and Britain, its most martial members, from the governments with shakier convictions in the wisdom of a long offensive. Seen from Belgrade, these include France, Germany, Italy and Greece.

Summing up Serb strategy this week, a Nato spokesman said Mr Milosevic "believes he can realign his ethnic problems in one week and that Nato unity will crack in that same period".

Tensions were rumoured to have surfaced at Nato headquarters on Tuesday night when alliance ambassadors debated the merits of moving to a "Phase 3" operation, which would widen the air war to a range of strategic targets across Serbia. However, Jamie Shea, Señor Solana's spokesman, said yesterday that the harmony among the ambassadors had been striking and gave the lie to predictions that resolve would crack. "I have never seen the alliance so determined and resolved. We are beyond the point of no return when it comes to unity," Mr Shea said.

> 'We are beyond the point of no return when it comes to unity'

France's commitment to fighting with the alliance from which it has been semi-estranged for three decades is a source of satisfaction at Nato. For the moment, Paris is holding firm but President Chirac and Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, have gone to considerable lengths to quash qualms among politicians and the media over the heavy military commitment to the US-led operation. However, television reports of Serb atrocities this week have rallied public opinion and 58 per cent support the use of ground troops if necessary, according to a poll yesterday.

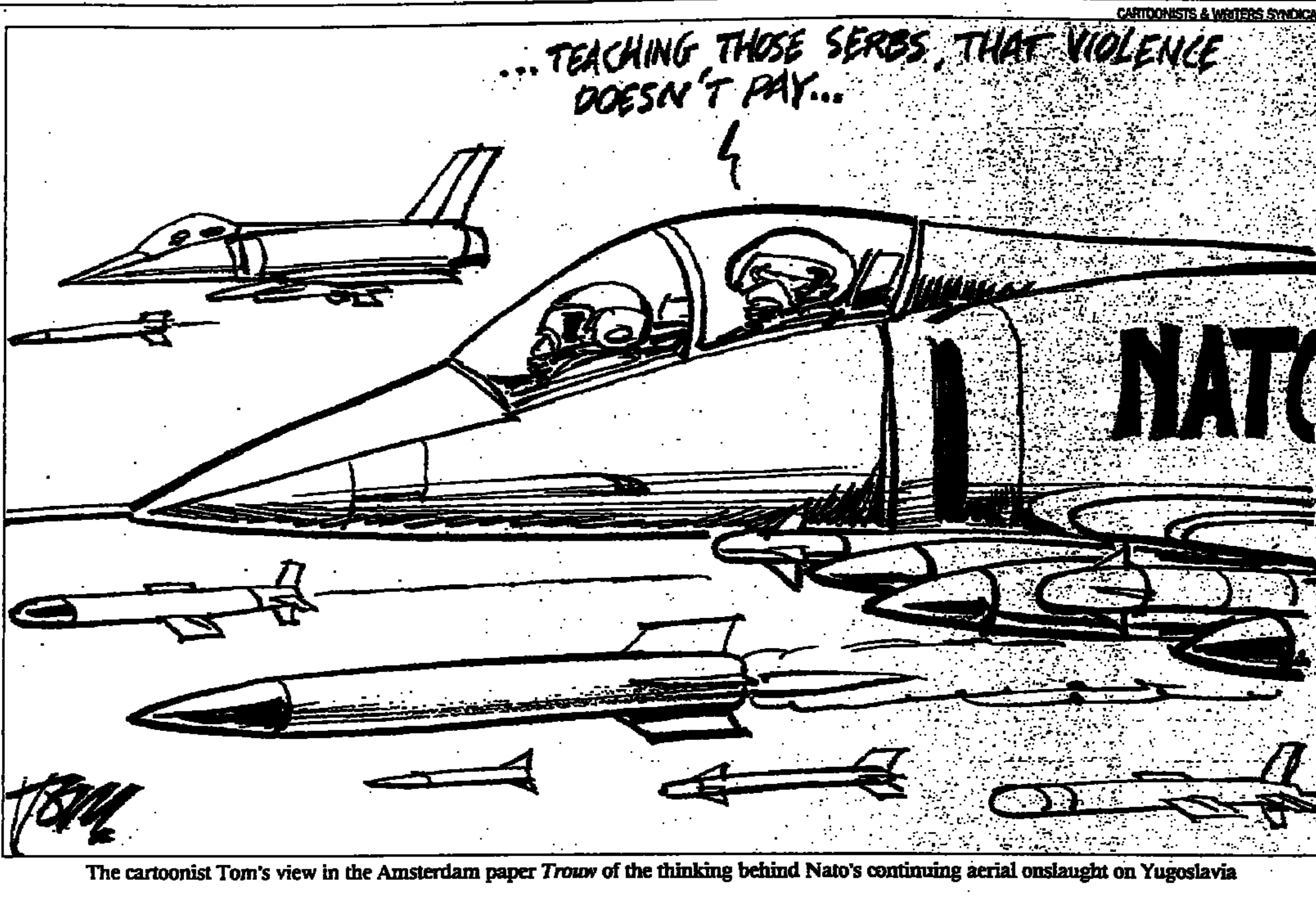
Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, is holding to a policy of absolute loyalty to Nato in the country's first combat operation since the Second World War. But his Green coalition partners are growing restive, along with members of his own Social Democratic Party.

For political and geographic reasons, Italy and Greece present the most obvious weak links. Governed by the traditional Left and close to the fighting, both have called publicly for a pause in bombing and a return to negotiation.

Italy's support is deemed vital because most of Nato's operations are being carried out from air and naval bases there. A prolonged action could even bring down Massimo D'Alema's coalition because his communist allies are threatening to withdraw their two ministers from his centre-left coalition unless he does more to halt the air campaign.

There are also concerns that a long war could test the loyalty of Nato's newest members. Hungary, which is the only Nato state that borders Serbia, has backed operations but is not taking part. Support for the campaign is running about 60 per cent, according to opinion polls, but Hungarians are worried about the 300,000-strong Hungarian ethnic minority living in the Vojvodina province of Serbia. Dissent is also visible in the Czech Republic, while Poland has given its whole-hearted support.

Support in the rest of the alliance remains firm, however, with public backing particularly strong in Spain.



The cartoonist Tom's view in the Amsterdam paper *Trouw* of the thinking behind Nato's continuing aerial onslaught on Yugoslavia

Belgrade hacks holes in the Net

Brussels: Yugoslavia has scored a high-tech hit in the heart of Nato by paralysing the alliance's public Internet site and disrupting its e-mail system and other computer systems, officials reported (Charles Bremner writes).

Jamie Shea, the alliance spokesman, said "hackers in Belgrade" had saturated the server used for the alliance website (www.Nato.int), putting it out of action for the past three days.

In addition, "an individual" in Serbia was playing havoc with the open e-mail system by deluging it with 2,000 messages a day, Mr Shea said.

A "macro-virus coming from Yugoslavia had damaged software and hardware in some alliance computers" he said, without giving details.

Officials said the computer trouble was affecting only "unsecure" systems that are connected with public networks. The alliance's high-security electronics were not affected.

However, the frozen Internet site has caused embarrassment by depriving the public and media of direct access to Nato's version of the Kosovo campaign. Technicians are trying to restore the systems.

LINKS

http://www.iwpr.net — Institute for War and Peace Reporting. Group with wide range of independent reports on war, human rights, censorship.

[illegible] — Links to sites covering the Kosovo crisis and "chat room", an area in an Internet link provider's service where users can communicate directly with others who share the same interests.

http://www.mod.uk/[illegible] — Ministry of Defence site dedicated to Kosovo conflict, with speeches by ministers, maps, balance of forces, chronology and UN resolutions

[illegible] — Pristina-based agency giving news and analysis from Serb point of view

[illegible] — Kosovo Liberation Army site offering KLA declarations and interviews.

Envoys forced to leave embassy in US

By Damian Whitworth in Washington

THE US Government yesterday took possession of the Yugoslav embassy in Washington after instructing the diplomatic community to leave. The action followed the breaking off of diplomatic relations by Belgrade.

"We followed our standard diplomatic practice for cases of broken relations," said a State Department spokesman after officials and Secret Service officers took over the embassy and the nearby Ambassador's residence in the early hours.

Diplomats and staff had been given until midnight on Tuesday to leave the buildings but some still emerged in nightshirts when officers moved in shortly after the deadline passed. Yugoslavia announced last Thursday that it was breaking diplomatic relations with America because of the Nato attacks. It also broke ties with Britain, France and Germany because of their role in "armed aggression".

The United States closed its embassy in Belgrade last weekend and evacuated remaining diplomats prior to Nato airstrikes. With neighbouring streets blocked, officials first took possession of the Washington embassy and then the nearby chancellery.

The State Department's Office of Foreign Missions co-ordinated the takeover, routine when diplomatic ties are broken. The department said it was acting under the terms of the Vienna Convention and promised to "respect and protect the properties without prejudice to the eventual settlement of property issues among all the successor states to the former Yugoslavia".


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Gun raid PC on murder charge

By Richard Duce

A POLICEMAN was charged with murder last night in the case of an unarmed man shot dead at his home more than a year ago.

Four Sussex police officers also face misconduct charges over their handling of the raid in Hastings that led to James Ashley, 39, being fatally shot in the chest while he was in bed with his girlfriend.

The five officers were charged on the day that the Sussex Police Authority reinstated its chief constable. Paul Whitehouse, 53, had been suspended from duty over allegations that the public was misled by police about the circumstances of the shooting.

The officer charged with murder yesterday is PC Christopher Sherwood, 31, who allegedly fired the fatal shot. Only one other serving policeman is believed to have been charged with murder. The other officers charged yesterday are Superintendent Christopher Burton, 42, who was in overall command of the raid; Inspector Kevin French, 46, the crime manager; Inspector Christopher Paul Siggs, 40, the operational planner; and PC Robert Shoesmith, 37. Because the allegations against them are linked to a murder charge, they could also face life imprisonment. All the officers were bailed to appear before Bow Street magistrates on May 21.

A sixth officer, PC Stephen Crocker, was told that there was insufficient evidence, at present, for any charges to be levelled.

The solicitor for PC Sherwood, who also faces an alternative charge of manslaughter, said: "My client emphatically denies the charge and will be vigorously maintaining his innocence throughout the proceedings."

Graham Alexander, chairman of the Sussex Police Federation, said of the five officers: "We will provide them with the best legal team and support them throughout."

In a separate development, Mr Whitehouse, who was suspended as Chief Constable of Sussex three weeks ago, was reinstated at the end of an all-day meeting of the police authority in Lewes.

The authority said that it was felt to be in the best interests of both the public and police in Sussex that he should resume his post.

Just hours after the raid in which Mr Ashley was shot, Mr Whitehouse said that Mr Ashley was wanted in connection with the attempted murder of a man who had been stabbed outside a bar in Hastings, and a cocaine trafficking inquiry. However, only a small quantity of cannabis was found at his flat and it later emerged that Mr Ashley had probably saved the stabbed man's life by pulling his assailant from him.

Last night a spokeswoman for Mr Ashley's family said that his mother, Eileen, was in hospital after having collapsed at the weekend because the delay in any action surrounding her son's death had taken its strain. However, she said: "The family is very relieved that the charges have now been made."



Sherwood: emphatically denies murder charge



Robert Slack leaving the tribunal yesterday after winning £13,000 compensation

Fault-finding lecturer was unfairly sacked

By Robin Young

A UNIVERSITY lecturer who became obsessed with identifying what he said were a multiplicity of mistakes in a colleague's books yesterday won a claim for unfair dismissal and £13,000 compensation.

Robert Slack, 50, a senior lecturer in business studies at the University of North London, claimed he was fired for pointing out embarrassing mistakes made by his fellow lecturer, Humphrey Shaw.

Mr Slack, who worked at the university for 11 years and was paid £32,000 a year, told an employment tribunal in Central London yesterday: "Students were supposed to go over examples in their books with me but they complained that what I was telling them was different from the book, *Finance in Organisations*. So I went away to read it. I could not believe what I was reading, it was so bad. There were over 1,000 errors."

He said he had marked his copy of the book with some of the "most obvious" errors. The response of his head of department, Frank Blewett, "totally ignored the fact that the book was unacceptable and bound to be damaging to students. Instead, he used the memorandum to criticise me."

At the end of 1996, he wrote again to Mr Blewett about another book of Dr Shaw, *Strategic Financial Management*, "which appeared to be worse than the first one".

Mr Slack then took the matter up with the chairman of the academic quality committee and with the acting vice-chancellor, but in December 1997 he was told that his memos about Dr Shaw were libellous and amounted to a "campaign of continued harassment and totally unreasonable behaviour". On March 16, 1998, after a disciplinary hearing, Mr Slack allegedly told Mr Blewett during an argument at a Tube station: "You're going to die, sunshine."

Two days later Mr Slack was told he was guilty of serious misconduct and given a first and final written warning. In July 1998, Mr Slack was found guilty of misconduct in relation to the threats to Mr Blewett and sacked for being in breach of the first and final warning.

But yesterday the university accepted that the warning was not in place when Mr Slack was alleged to have threatened Mr Blewett, and the tribunal therefore found that Mr Slack had been unfairly dismissed. However, it voted by 2-1 not to reinstate him.

WRITES AND WRONGS

- A chapter called risk management where there was no discussion of risk management.
- The sum one quarter multiplied by 100 equals 33.33%.
- A note for hospitality students that, if they were running a hotel/restaurant and no guest turned up for a meal, there would be staff costs and no food costs.
- £25,000 overheads to produce 10,000 units variously calculated as unit cost of £2.50 (correct), £10 (wrong) and £12.50 (wrong).
- Probabilities calculated to exceed one (a statistical probability of one means it is certainly going to happen).

Lockerbie suspects 'fly in at weekend'

By Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor

A SECRET flight carrying the Lockerbie bomb suspects from Libya may touch down in The Netherlands this weekend, the Foreign Office believes.

The Libyans are still in final negotiations with the UN, and Britain has not been told the details, but diplomats believe that Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, is ready to send Abdel Baset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamine Khalifa Fhimeh for trial by a Scottish court in The Hague. It is thought he will chose to do so during the quiet Easter weekend, while attention is focused on Kosovo.

Jana, the Libyan news agency, said that President Mandela, who visited Tripoli on March 19, had confirmed to Colonel Gaddafi that everything was on course and in accordance with agreements made with the UN.

On their arrival, the men will be formally arrested. They will then be extradited to Scottish jurisdiction and be held in the special court complex being built at a former air base.

The Scottish Office confirmed that six officers from Dumfries and Galloway Police have been stationed in The Netherlands to await the handover of the two suspects.

INSIDE SECTION 2
Russell Celyn Jones on **Salman Rushdie**
Duncan Fellowell on **Bruce Chatwin**
Elaine Feinstein on **Serena Vitale**
Books, pages 42 - 44





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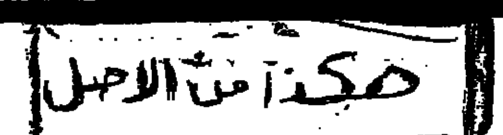
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Judges agree: McDonald's can be bad for you

Court of Appeal upholds claim by McLibel pair and cuts bill for damages, writes Frances Gibb

THE two environmental campaigners who fought a marathon legal battle against McDonald's won a new court victory yesterday when judges upheld their claim that eating too much of the restaurant's fast food could be unhealthy.

The Court of Appeal also reduced by one third the £60,000 damages originally awarded against Dave Morris, 44, a former postman, and Helen Steel, 33, a former gardener, for libelling the corporation.

The damages were awarded against the pair in 1997 after they were sued by McDonald's over a leaflet distributed by protesters.

After a 314-day trial held over 2½ years — the longest in English history, costing an estimated £10 million — Mr Justice Bell ruled in June 1997 that some of the allegations in a pamphlet entitled *What's Wrong with McDonald's?* were not libellous, but that others were.

The pair appealed and yesterday Lords Justices Pill and May and Mr Justice Keene upheld their appeal on two of the allegations that the pamphlet made against McDonald's.

The appeal judges ruled that it was "fair comment" to say that the restaurant's employees worldwide "do badly in terms of pay and conditions", and that "it was true that "if one eats enough McDonald's food, one's diet may well become high in fat etc., with a very real risk of heart disease".

The matter of who will pay the costs of the appeal, which are likely to run to £200,000, will be decided at a later date.

Yesterday Mr Morris and Ms Steel welcomed the ruling, but said that they intended to ask the House of Lords for a ruling on those allegations that the judges maintained were libellous.

Mr Morris said: "This is a complete vindication of our decision to appeal in that two further areas of McDonald's core business practice have been effectively slammed by the court on top of those already found by Mr Justice Bell."

But he said that, although the first trial had been a victory against "almost impossible odds", their fundamental battle about the injustice of the libel laws remained. He and Ms Steel were forced to act for themselves because there is no legal aid for libel, while McDonald's instructed a full legal team.

Ms Steel said: "There should be protection for the right to criticise rich and powerful organisations that have immense effect on people's lives."

Mr Morris said that the action by McDonald's had become a massive public relations disaster for the chain. "Leaflets which were given out originally in their hundreds are now given out in their millions all over the world. McDonald's have shot themselves in the foot."

In Britain alone, more than three million of the leaflets have been handed out and the McSpotlight website, which contains more than 20,000 files about the trial and about McDonald's, has been visited more than 65 million times.

Mr Justice Bell ruled in 1997 that the corporation had been libelled by some of the pair's allegations, including claims that it poisoned customers and exploited Third World countries.

But he upheld the claims that some of the chain's advertising promoted a positive nutritional benefit that its food did not provide; that its advertising exploited children; and that it was "culpably responsible for animal cruelty" and for "paying low wages and depressing wages in the catering trade".

As a result, Mr Morris and Ms Steel were ordered to pay damages of £60,000. Not a penny has been paid and McDonald's has not pursued them for it.

The judges yesterday rejected allegations by Ms Steel and Mr Morris of bias against the trial judge and upheld the right of McDonald's to protect its reputation by bringing the libel action.

McDonald's issued a statement after the ruling welcoming the upholding of Mr Justice Bell's findings that some serious allegations against it were defamatory. These concerned the issues at trial of Third World starvation, destruction of the rainforests and damage to the environment through packaging, as well as allegations of food poisoning, causing cancer and opposing trade unions.

On the ruling about the nutritional value of its food, the chain said: "McDonald's has always stressed the importance of a balanced diet and lifestyle when considering questions of nutrition."

McDonald's said that the court had held that the pair's allegations on pay and conditions were comment, not statements of fact.



JAMES HORTON

Dave Morris and Helen Steel: the court said their criticisms of McDonald's food and wages were fair comment

Why cup of green tea stops cancer

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

RESEARCHERS in Sweden believe they have found out how green tea prevents cancer. The mechanism is the same as that being used by scientists at the forefront of cancer research.

A chemical in the tea blocks the formation of blood vessel growth, reports the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. Since tumours need to generate blood vessels to feed them, this process starves them to death. The finding helps to explain many studies which have shown that green tea is protective against cancer.

The Stockholm scientists found that the human equivalent of two to three cups of green tea reduced the new blood vessel production by up to 70 per cent. In separate experiments, reported in *Nature*, they showed that the active ingredient in tea responsible for this is epigallocatechin-3-gallate, or EGCG. This has previously been shown to inhibit tumour growth by a team at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Black tea undergoes a production process that reduces the amount of EGCG in the tea, and the Purdue research suggests that, as a result, it is a less potent anti-cancer agent.

Leading article, page 25

It was a toss-up, but in the end cricket clubs lost

By Robin Young

THEY could, of course, have tossed for it. But in the end the cricketing authorities simply decided to throw out a proposal to do away with the traditional pre-match coin spin.

First Class Forum, which represents the 18 first-class counties, had proposed reverting to the system used between 1774 and 1816. In those days, the choice of batting or bowling first belonged to the visiting captain, so as to nullify any advantage the home side might derive from its preparation of the pitch.

Yesterday the England and Wales Cricket Board, with whom the final decision rested, unexpectedly dismissed the notion. The toss stays, even though many believe its influence on the outcome of matches is too great.

The earliest laws of cricket gave the captain who won the toss the choice of which pitch to use, as well as whether to bat on it first or second. In 1774 a new code gave the visiting side choice of both. It stayed that way until revised rules in 1816 decreed "the umpires in all matches to pitch for wickets and the parties to toss for the choice of innings".

In no other game does the toss of a coin play quite such an important part. England's prolonged career of Test match disasters has habitually been blamed, at least in part, on the inability of the captain to win the toss. In 1997 Michael Atherton managed to lose the toss in all five Tests against Australia.

In Test cricket, visiting captains have the privilege of calling heads or tails. Perhaps because an Australian pastime is a betting game involving coins called "two up", England captains rarely seem to get the better of them.

Stay-at-home students get the worst jobs

By Alexandra Frean, Social Affairs Correspondent

THE growing trend for university students to stay at home to study is wrecking the career prospects of thousands of graduates and destroying mobility in the labour market, a study says.

Students who leave home to go to university are nearly twice as likely to get well-paid jobs when they graduate as those who live with their parents, irrespective of how well they do in exams.

Fleeing the Nest, a study by the University of Newcastle upon Tyne published yesterday, found that the key factor determining a graduate's first job was whether he or she had left home to study.

Around three quarters of students go to universities far away from home. They do better in general than other students after graduation because they are far more likely to migrate to wherever the best-paying and most attractive jobs happen to be. The stay-at-homers, on the other hand, tend to get stuck in non-graduate jobs close to where their parents live.

Rick Audas, co-author of the study, said that the problem had always existed but was being compounded by the introduction this year of tuition fees, which were forcing more undergraduates to stay close to home to save money. He said: "The top jobs will become even more accessible to rich kids, who are the ones most likely — post tuition fees — to be able to afford to go away to study."

Mr Audas told the Royal Economics Society annual conference in Nottingham yesterday that the findings had far-reaching policy implications. Not only was the introduction of tuition fees likely to have an adverse impact on students' ability to make the best career choices, it would also put a brake on the overall mobility of the workforce. "A change in the labour market is like a change in the ecosystem — it upsets a delicate balance and has a long-term effect."

A mobile labour force was fundamental to a healthy economy because it allowed the most skilled candidates to seek out the best positions. This kind of job match-making could in turn lead to increased productivity, lower staff turnover and higher wages.

Using a survey of 13,000 students, Mr Audas and his colleague, Peter Dolton, found a clear regional pattern. Young people from East Anglia and the North West were more likely to travel away to university. Their contemporaries in Scotland, Wales and the South East were more likely to study close to home.

The effects of this regionalisation could threaten the viability of universities in remote areas. "Some urban regions may be under-provided for in terms of university space."



Suzanna Taverne, the British Museum's new managing director, overlooking its Great Court development yesterday

Former banker to direct British Museum

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

A FORMER merchant banker was appointed yesterday as the managing director of the British Museum. She immediately admitted that "art and antiquities have not been a particular passion", although she was a "long-standing visitor" to the museum.

Suzanna Taverne, 39 — daughter of Lord Taverne, the former Treasury Secretary — has taken "a substantial pay cut" to join the museum. For the past three years she has worked for the media firm Pearson as director of strategy and, most recently, as managing director of *FT Finance*. Before that she was a consultant to Saatchi and Saatchi and finance director of Newspaper Publishing, publisher of *The Independent*, from 1992.

Yesterday she said she looked forward "to playing my part in helping to bring the museum to new heights", but there was confusion over how her role might clash with that of the director, Robert Anderson. The suggestion is that they will work as equal partners.

"But they already have a finance director," an insider said, referring to Anthony Blackstock. "What's the point of another?" Another noted that neither Dr Anderson nor Mr Blackstock were "the picture of happiness" over the appointment.

Ms Taverne said that content and presentation would be Mr Anderson's prime responsibility. As managing director, she would explore "opening out the museum", and would take "a hard look at how money gets spent".

The trustees would resolve any difficulties, Graham Greene, their chairman, said. But such an enormous institution was too much for one individual to handle.

The British Museum is going through a period of major change, caused partly by the £97 million development of the Great Court, Sir Norman Foster's grand plan for the former British Library Reading Room, and a study centre allowing the public to watch curators work. Most of the money has been raised and Dr Anderson said it expected to attract 7.5 million visitors by 2001. However, staff say the museum is in danger of losing direction.



Anderson: will work as an "equal partner"

Jane Dowle, page 24

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[H]unt for peace goes to the outer limits

Martin Fletcher traces how the proposed Ulster breakthrough emerged from protracted talks

IT WAS late on Tuesday night, after Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, had left Hillsborough Castle by helicopter for Dublin, that the detailed work to rescue the Good Friday peace accord began.

Tony Blair and Mr Ahern had spent the entire day, and much of the previous evening, in talks with David Trimble's Ulster Unionists, Sinn Fein and other interested parties, probing the outer limits of what might be possible to break the deadlock caused by Mr Trimble's refusal to admit Sinn Fein to government until the IRA begins decommissioning its weapons.

Half a dozen top British and Irish officials then took over. They worked late into the night and early yesterday morning to identify a possible way through the impasse. At 9am Mr Ahern rejoined his UK counterpart at Hillsborough for a further two-and-a-half hours of intensive talks with the parties.

The rough shape of the proposed deal appeared to involve an IRA commitment to the principle of decommissioning and a guaranteed timetable for disarmament to be completed within the two-year timeframe set out in the Good Friday accord.

In return the Unionists would agree to set up an executive that included Sinn Fein provided that disarmament began almost immediately. The deal could be underwritten by the two Governments and General John de Chastelain, head of the international disarmament body.

Significantly, senior members of the IRA were in the Sinn Fein delegation at Hillsborough, and just before 11am the IRA issued its annual Easter statement through *An Phoblacht*, the republican movement's newspaper, in Dublin.

The statement said that the IRA's guns were silent, that it wanted to see a permanent peace, and that the peace process had the potential to resolve the conflict. But government sources suggested it was important for what it did not say, rather than what it did. It did not contain the blanket refusal to consider decommissioning of past IRA statements.

Just before midday the two Prime Ministers came out on to the driveway at Hillsborough for a brief press conference before heading back to their respective capitals.

Mr Ahern said that the basic principles had been established and that disagreement now was "about timing and dates". Mr Blair said that "good progress" had been made and urged the parties to redouble their efforts for the sake of all of the people of Northern Ireland.

Both men said that they stood ready to return to Hillsborough in the evening if there was a real chance of a breakthrough.

As the Prime Ministers left, Mr Trimble addressed the media. He suggested that there had been little progress beyond improved "atmospherics" and dismissed the IRA's statement as "anodyne". What he wanted to hear was "a clear commitment by them to end the war, to decommissioning, to disarming in accordance with the agreement, within the timescale of the agreement ... and we want, of course, that process to begin in a credible way".

Government officials saw significance in Mr Trimble's phraseology. He had demanded a "commitment" to decommissioning, rather than "prior" decommissioning. It was a formulation repeated at different times by two other Ulster Unionist spokesmen.

Mr Trimble then left Hillsborough to brief members of the UUP assembly group at Stormont. It is believed that the idea of forming the executive a very short time before the first downpayment of weaponry was raised tangentially and caused considerable concern.

> ‘Gerry Adams coined a phrase for what he and David Trimble have to do — jumping together’

As the Prime Ministers arrived back at Hillsborough late yesterday for a third consecutive night of talks, the future of the Good Friday accord, and perhaps the entire peace process, rested on two great unanswered questions: would Gerry Adams risk splitting the IRA by calling for decommissioning; and would Mr Trimble risk being deposed as Ulster Unionist leader by ceding the principle of prior disarmament?

Mr Adams recently coined a phrase for what he and Mr Trimble had to do. He called it "jumping together".

□ Army bomb disposal experts were examining suspect devices in Belfast and Co Tyrone yesterday after a dissident loyalist group issued warnings that it had planted explosive devices.

The Red Hand Defenders claimed to have planted a bomb under the car of what it called a prominent republican in Dungannon, and to have thrown a device into the rear garden of a Catholic family in North Belfast.

The alerts came after a pipe bomb exploded when it was thrown through the window of a house in Antrim. The occupant escaped unhurt when he was alerted by the noise of a smoke alarm.

The RUC said a Dungannon man had spotted something beneath his car, kicked it into a hedge and thought no more of it. Later a call from the Red Hand Defenders, claiming to have planted a device under the car of a man at the same address, sent army bomb disposal experts to the scene to examine the object.

In North Belfast a device with wires leading from it was spotted in the rear garden of a house at Grey's Lane in the Shore Road area of the city. It, too, was being examined by a bomb expert.

PAUL McERLANE/REUTERS



The talks continue: Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern at Hillsborough Castle yesterday

Labour faces Scots election threat

By Jason Allardyce, Scottish Political Reporter

LABOUR faces the prospect of a damaging court battle during its Scottish election campaign after the Lord Provost of Glasgow threatened to sue the party for damages.

Pat Lally, who was suspended from the party for 18 months last January after a Labour inquiry into factionalism in Glasgow City Council, wants it to clear his name. Peter McCann, a solicitor for Mr Lally who is retiring from council politics in May, says he wants damages and an apology.

Although the matter is unlikely to reach court before elections to the Scottish parliament on May 6, Mr Lally's threat will focus fresh attention on alleged Labour sleaze in local government.

The Lord Provost managed to outflank a Labour attempt to remove him from office after the suspension when, in February 1998, he was granted a judicial review of the decision.

The suspension was lifted after party officials concluded that they could lose the court case because their procedures had not taken account of Scots law. He had been suspended after claims that Labour councillors were trading political support for trips.

Peers get the vote, but don't know how to use it

By James Landale, Political Correspondent

HEREDITARY peers — probably the most inexperienced electorate in the world — must overcome one of the most complex electoral systems ever to escape Labour's axe.

The hereditaries, who are banned from voting or standing in general elections, face a system of five separate elections with five different electorates to find the 92 peers who would stay on under a compromise deal. This raises the possibility of hereditary peers who have never cast a vote or stood for election discreetly canvassing around the bars and restaurants of the Lords. The so-called Weatherill amendment to the House of Lords Bill was formally tabled yesterday and could still be rejected by peers in coming months.

Under the latest proposals, which have been seen by *The Times*, the ballots would take place in the Lords probably during the October "spillover" session of Parliament. Each hereditary peer would have the chance to vote in two of the five polls, life peers in just one. Each peer could cast a different number of votes in each ballot. Ties would be resolved by the drawing of lots. And unwell peers could cast a postal ballot only if they sent a doctor's note to the parliamentary clerks. The latest blueprint, drawn up by officials in the Lords, will be considered by the Lords Procedure Committee before being put to the House as a whole. The first ballot will involve all peers, whether hereditary or life, electing 15 hereditary peers to act as so-called officers of the House, such as committee chairmen or deputy speakers. In the second ballot, the 303 Tory hereditaries would elect 42 of their number to stay on. In the third, the 208 hereditary crossbenchers would elect 28 of their number to survive. In the fourth, the Liberal Democrats' 24 hereditaries would elect three to stay on. In the fifth, Labour's 18 hereditaries would vote to give a reprieve to two of their number.

The basic system is first-past-the-post, with a bit of single transferable vote to resolve ties.

> **NIGHT SHIFT**
>
> After almost 30 hours of debate and 180 speakers over two days, the House of Lords Bill finally received its second reading early yesterday. Despite a valiant defence by 125 Labour peers, some 192 exhausted but defiant hereditary peers stayed up until 3am to defeat the Government. Peers backed an amendment which accused the Government of trying to expel the hereditaries for political advantage without anything democratic in their place.

Leading article, page 25

Drink-free soccer zones dropped

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

PROPOSALS for alcohol-free zones before and after football matches have been abandoned by the Government.

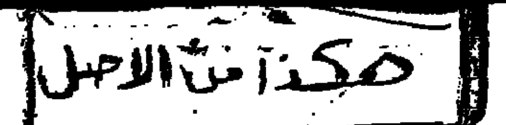
The plan which could have barred pubs, restaurants and supermarkets from selling alcohol for up to 24 hours was dropped after criticism that a ban would disrupt the lives of people who had nothing to do with football.

Ministers were also warned that closing pubs and bars in whole towns or districts around football stadiums would simply force supporters to drink just outside the exclusion zone.

Ministers have also postponed pressing ahead with the controversial proposal to give the courts power to issue restriction orders on known hooligans who have not been convicted of a football-related offence. The order would have banned travel to an international or domestic game.

The move came as a Private Member's Bill containing most of the Government's proposals to strengthen laws on soccer violence was published. The Bill, introduced by Simon Burns, Conservative MP for Chelmsford, includes banning convicted hooligans from travelling to overseas matches and outlawing indecent and racist chanting by individuals rather than by groups, as at present.

His Bill has government support.







Derek Nimmo in *Oh Brother!* in 1968 and, right, with his wife, Patricia. He suffered severe head injuries in a fall at his home, but ultimately died of bronchial pneumonia

Nimmo's last night on the town

Inquest told of champagne with friends, reports **Claudia Joseph**

DEREK NIMMO, the actor and radio personality who became renowned for his television role as a bumbling clergyman, drank champagne at the Garrick club with a lifelong friend just hours before he was fatally injured falling down a flight of steps, an inquest heard yesterday.

Mr Nimmo, who was a regular panellist on Radio 4's *Just A Minute*, and his wife, Patricia, met Geoffrey Walker and his wife at the club before the couples went out to dinner in Covent Garden. After downing a further two bottles of wine, the Walkers went back to their hotel and the Nimmos went to their home in South Kensington, West London.

But, as they arrived home, in the early hours of December 3 last year, Mr Nimmo, 68, who appeared in *All Gas and Gaiters*, *Oh Brother!* and *Life Begins at Forty*, fell down the 15 stone steps to the basement flat, suffering serious head injuries.

He was taken to Chelsea and Westminster Hotel, then transferred to the Atkinson Morley Hospital, but he died in hospital 12 weeks later.

Mrs Nimmo, who was married to the comedian for 44 years, was not in court to hear Pa l Knapman, the Westminster Coroner, record a verdict of accidental death, although the couple's son Piers, 32, attended the hearing.

In a statement read out to the court, she said: "My husband and I had been out earlier that evening. We had been out for a meal with friends of ours, Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Walker. I personally cannot recall how much alcohol was consumed.

"We left them to return to their hotel and we made our way back home by way of the Underground at Earls Court.

"I opened the gate in the railings and went down the 15 steps into the basement and switched off the alarm and opened the door. I had just stepped into the entrance when I heard a noise. Derek had fallen down the 15 stone steps."

Mr Walker, who had known the comic almost all his life, told the inquest: "It came as an enormous shock to hear about the events after the accident. We only heard the following day with a message to the hotel."

Angus Kennedy, a consultant neurologist at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, said in a statement that Mr Nimmo had been admitted with severe head injuries and an acute internal haemorrhage.

He developed broncho-pneumonia, which was treated with antibiotics, before suffering another haemorrhage and being transferred to the Atkinson Morley Hospital and put on a ventilator.

He was transferred back to the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital on December 23 and his condition began to improve. *He was making spontaneous efforts to speak*, although he still had to be fed by tube.

By January 13, he was back on an ordinary ward and, by the beginning of February, he had made significant neurological improvement and could sit on a chair. But on February 23, he developed broncho-pneumonia and died in the intensive care unit the following afternoon.

Dr Knapman recorded the cause of death as bronchial pneumonia due to a right frontal lobe contusion caused by a head injury and operation, as well as his long-term diabetes.

"The steps are a perfectly ordinary set of steps, steps that can be seen in many areas of London, and which, from time to time, people do fall down," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Minorities are appointed QCs

A record number of barristers from ethnic minorities are among the 69 lawyers to be appointed Queen's Counsels today (Frances Gibb writes). The list of new QCs includes five lawyers from minority backgrounds as well as nine who are women, and one who is a solicitor. The successful ethnic minority candidates are Anesta Weekes, Frank Panford, Michael Massih, Jonathan McManus and Hodge Malek.

Of the 553 applications for silk this year, 45 were from women and 27 from members of ethnic minorities. Ethnic minority candidates had their highest rate of success so far, faring much better proportionately than did male or white candidates. More than 18 per cent of candidates from ethnic minority backgrounds were successful, compared to just under 12 per cent of non-ethnic minority candidates. Similarly, women did better than men, with 20 per cent being successful, compared with nearly 12 per cent of male applicants. Just over 12 per cent of applicants were solicitors, of whom one was appointed.

Law report, page 46

Poor advice at chemists'

Staff in most pharmacies either give inappropriate advice to customers or none at all, according to the Consumers' Association. Pharmacists are also failing to monitor staff adequately to ensure that medicines are sold safely, a *Which?* survey shows today. In visits to 40 *chemists' across the country*, researchers reported that they were treated unsatisfactorily at two thirds of them when seeking advice for different conditions. The solution, the report says, is to ask to see the pharmacist in private. "Most responded sensitively to this request."

Dangers of clean living

An obsession with cleanliness is putting homeowners at risk from disease. Overuse of "bug-buster" cleaning products could encourage bacteria rather than prevent them, a report in *Health Which?* says. Not only do the antibacterial *products give people a* false sense of security, but the report says there is a growing fear that triclosan, one of the main chemicals they contain, could add to the existing problem of bacterial resistance. The chemical is also in toothpaste and toys.

Sisters killed in crash





Three teenagers were killed when their car collided with another on a country lane in South Yorkshire. Alexa Oxby, 15, *left*, her *17-year-old sister Gemma, right, and* Alexa's boyfriend, Trevor Mannion, 17, died as their saloon collided with an oncoming car and crashed into a field. The driver and another passenger were not seriously hurt in the crash, at Stickin Hill, near Mexborough, on Tuesday night. The 60-year-old driver of the other car was taken to hospital with chest injuries, and his wife, also aged 60, was admitted suffering from a suspected angina attack. South Yorkshire Police are appealling for witnesses to the accident.

Record sales of Diana coin

The Diana, Princess of Wales commemorative coin has sold at an unprecedented rate of almost 20,000 a week, the Royal Mint said yesterday. In the eight weeks after its launch in January, 150,000 of the £5 coins were sold in £9.95 presentation packs. Gold and silver versions are available from today. The £5 legal tender version will be issued on July 1. Profits will go to fund official memorial projects, including children's nursing teams and community awards.

Mother loses abortion case

A woman who claimed that a GP prevented her from aborting a child who was born brain-damaged has lost her High Court action for damages. Michele Johnston, 33, of Corby, Northamptonshire, sued Sheila Matthews for the cost of raising her son Sam, who was born prematurely after she had a haemorrhage in April 1989. She claimed that the GP wrongly told her she was too late for an abortion at 14½ weeks. Dr Matthews, who denied negligence, said that she had not allowed her Christian beliefs to cloud her professional duty.

Minister praises tokens

Estelle Morris, the School Standards Minister, yesterday included *The Times* Free Books for Schools scheme as one of the landmarks of the National Year of Reading. She said at the scheme's halfway point: "The success and sheer range of organisations and people involved demonstrates how the year has grabbed people's imaginations."

THE TIMES FREE BOOKS SCHOOLS

There is a week to go to win one of three books signed by Chris Evans, the presenter of Virgin Radio's breakfast show, for the three most amusing or imaginative token-collecting strategies in the *Times* scheme. Mark Hitchins, 14, of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, has written in to tell how he began collecting old copies of *The Times from Posthouse hotels after a family holiday. He uses the papers* to line a hutch: "Sooty the rabbit has never had such a good read." Rachel Evans, a teacher at Villiers Primary School in the West Midlands, has given a shield held each week by the class that collects most tokens. The school has amassed more than 40,000. Send competition entries in no more than 50 words to Hannah Betts, *The Times*, Times House, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. More than 38 million tokens have been redeemed so far, earning 212,502 books.

Today's token, page 28

Equal pay deal for NHS

ay fury as Lords ministers get 25%

Teachers angry at rise of ten times inflation, writes Jill Sherman


Baroness Blackstone: to be paid salary of £64,426

MINISTERS in the Lords will receive rises of up to 25 per cent today — ten times the rate of inflation — to allow them to catch up with their colleagues in the Commons, Tony Blair announced last night.

The increases of more than £11,000, recommended by the Senior Salaries Pay Review Body, were immediately attacked by teaching and health service unions, who accused the Government of blatant injustice.

Ministers of state, such as Baroness Blackstone, the Education Minister, are to get a 20 per cent increase, from £53,264 to £64,426. Teachers received only 3.5 per cent.

Parliamentary under-secretaries, such as Baroness Hayman, the junior Health Minister, will get 25 per cent increases, taking their salaries to £55,631. Nurses received an average of about 5.4 per cent.

Lord Carter, Government Chief Whip in the Upper Chamber, will also see his salary rise in line with ministers of state, while his deputy, Lord McIntosh of Haringey, will get an £11,000 pay rise in line with parliamentary under-secretaries.

The increases include a 2.8 per cent inflation rise that ministers in the Commons received in February when their pay was decided. But ministers in the Lords still lag behind their Commons colleagues because of the extra amount they get for being an MP. A minister of state there gets £80,367 from today, while a junior minister will get £72,327.

"This recommendation reflects the review body's findings that, since the 1996 changes to the pay arrangements for ministers in the Commons, the salaries of these posts in the Lords has fallen behind to an unreasonable extent," Mr Blair said.

Teaching unions were furious at the rises, which were sevensix times more than they received. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "It is a blatant injustice to give teachers 3.5 per cent when they treat themselves to 20 per cent rises."

A spokeswoman for the NUT said: "The Government has one rule for its favourites and an entirely different one for those it has to depend on to deliver its standards and aims in education. It treats its own members with a generosity that it refuses to give its teachers."

Ian Bogle, chairman of the British Medical Association, said that senior doctors were still angry at the Government's refusal to honour the independent pay review body recommendation that they should be paid an extra £50 million from next year to compensate them for the extra work they were doing. Junior doctors were angry that the Government was not prepared to pay them overtime for working on holidays and weekends.

"If the Government feels comfortable about awarding significant increases to these ministers, we think they should have the grace to honour the recommendations of the independent pay review body," he said.

Under a separate report from the Senior Salaries Review Body, Donald Dewar is to get £104,000 if he is elected First Minister of the Scottish parliament, putting him on the same salary as the Prime Minister, and higher than Cabinet ministers.

Letters, page 25

Degas dancer prepares for leap to a £7m record

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

RICHARD CANNON


Sotheby's head picture porter, Dominic Cacioppo, with *Danseuse au repos*, which has left Paris for the first time since bought by a friend of the artist

A PASTEL by Edgar Degas is to be sold in London for an expected £5 million to £7 million, putting it in line to exceed the £6.6 million record for a work on paper set by a Van Gogh watercolour.

Danseuse au repos, never before exhibited outside Paris, was unveiled yesterday at Sotheby's, where the Van Gogh was sold in 1997.

The picture of an exhausted ballet dancer massaging her foot, which dates from about 1879, was purchased in 1885 by one of the artist's friends, a French industrialist. It has remained ever since with the family of Jules-Emile Boivin, who established the first sugar refinery in Paris, but they have decided to sell it through Sotheby's on June 28.

Melanie Clore, the deputy chairman of Sotheby's Europe, said: "There have been a lot of Degases on the market, but it is rare to get a great one."

The picture is from the artist's series of informal studies of ballet dancers, which he began in the 1870s. Ms Clore described it as "the most beautiful work by Degas to have appeared on the market since the sale of *L'Attente* at Sotheby's in New York in 1983", a work that was purchased jointly by Calfornia's Getty Museum and the Norton Simon Museum.

She drew parallels between Degas' fascination with dancers, depicted in different poses and at different moments, and Monet's obsession with returning to the same image at different times of the day.

Boivin, who also collected Sisleys and Pissarros, purchased six Degas paintings. The sale will include *Femme assise devant un piano*, 1882-85, an intimate composition of a woman engrossed in studying a musical score unaware of onlookers; it is expected to make £3.5 million.

Two other Degas works from the same collection are in museums. *Woman with vase of chrysanthemums*, 1865, was sold in 1921 to Mrs Havemeyer, one of the great Impressionist collectors, who in 1929 bequeathed it to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Two years ago, *Danseuses* went to the Musée d'Orsay, Paris, after it was acquired by the French Government in lieu of tax.

Website: http://www.sothebys.com

☐ A landscape by Thomas Gainsborough discovered four months ago in New Zealand was sold for £133,500 at Sotheby's in London yesterday. It had been spotted by Martin Gallon, a picture specialist at the saleroom, who was doing an *Antiques Roadshow*-style valuation at an hotel in Auckland.

The oil of a herdsman and cattle crossing a bridge, set against a wooded background, was brought in by a farmer with nine other pictures. It had been bought originally at the Leger Galleries in London in 1943.

The picture was sent back to London and shown to Hugh Belsey, curator of the Gainsborough House Museum in Sudbury, Suffolk, who dated the work to the 1770s. At the time, Gainsborough was experimenting with varnished drawings in mixed media, including the use of skimmed milk over Bristol lead white to achieve his characteristic white highlights. It was a secret that he asked a friend "never to impart to anyone living".

The picture sold for almost double the £50,000-£70,000 estimate to the art trade and was the top lot in a 98-lot auction, 70 per cent of which was sold for just over £1 million.

The sale included a portrait of Elizabeth Inchbald, by George Romney, which made £76,300. She was a farmer's daughter from Suffolk whose literary output is thought to have inspired Charlotte Brontë's classic *Jane Eyre*.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nice end to postcode medicine

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, promised an end to "postcode prescribing" yesterday as he inaugurated a £10 million body to give doctors guidance on which treatments are best and most cost-effective.

If the National Institute for Clinical Excellence — Nice — rules that one type of treatment is better than another, doctors everywhere will be expected to prescribe it, ending "a situation where adjacent health authorities look at different evidence and come to different conclusions", he said.

Pinochet inquiry

The Lord Chancellor last night announced an inquiry into whether the Law Lords' decision on General Pinochet was leaked to *The Times*, which predicted the decision that he could be extradited only on crimes committed after 1988.

Award upheld

A US appeal court has upheld a $1.2 million award (£740,000) against the US Government to the parents of Michael Whitley, 26, a lieutenant in The Duke of Wellington's Regiment who died in a 1993 road crash after his US Army driver fell asleep.

Weighty matters

More women are becoming heavier drinkers, heavier smokers and just plain heavier. While men are becoming slightly more abstemious, more of them, too, are putting on weight, according to the latest Health Survey of England.

Water curbs

Government action was announced to stop water companies, farmers and industries draining rivers, lakes and boreholes dry. New laws will curb traditional abstraction licenses and cancel those doing most damage.

Jet-set babies

When Grace Ndanyu went into labour with twins three months early in a jet flying at 35,000ft, she was on the right aircraft. A group of British doctors on the flight from London to Abu Dhabi kept the babies alive using oxygen masks.

Lawrence judge offers his defence

In his first interview since the report on teenager's race killing, Sir William Macpherson talks to **Magnus Linklater**



Sir William Macpherson at home yesterday: "To have 90 per cent of the recommendations accepted is heartening"

THE past four weeks have been tough going for Sir William Macpherson of Cluny. As a retired, if immensely experienced, judge, nothing had quite prepared him for the reaction to his report on the police investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence. From his home in Scotland, a 16th-century castle overlooking the Perthshire town of Blairgowrie, he has read, watched and listened to a barrage of criticism, some of it hostile, some of it plain offensive.

He has been accused of pandering to black opinion, of branding the Metropolitan Police racist, and of seeking to reduce personal privacy in a vain attempt to influence racial attitudes. Despite the fact that Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is likely to accept all but a handful of his 70 recommendations, the impression has been left that some of his ideas were naive, or simply unworkable. And rightwingers *have accused him* of abandoning judicial objectivity in the interest of political correctness. To none of this has he yet felt able to reply. Like most judges, he believes in maintaining the detachment of his office and allowing his report to speak for itself.

Now, however, he has decided that some of the charges require an answer. He concedes that the Lawrence report was *always going to be "a poisoned* chalice", but he believes that it has prompted an important debate on race.

"My shoulders are broad enough," he said. "I did not hold back and I never would. I think that the case itself and the report have sparked off the most extraordinary debate and a reaction that I didn't expect in the beginning. But I hope it has been a healthy debate, and I'm optimistic about the outcome. People have become alive to the fact that *there is a problem.*

"To have 90 per cent of the recommendations accepted is heartening to me. I have been a little disappointed at the stress placed upon two or three of them that have been heavily criticised. But I don't think that has taken away the thrust of the report."

Perhaps the most controversial conclusion of the report was that the Metropolitan Police were guilty of "institutional racism". It posed a dilemma for Sir Paul Condon, the force's commissioner, who was forced to accept the verdict, against his own instincts. *Sir William argues that it was* not intended to brand every officer as racist, and points out that it and its sister-phrase "unwitting racism" were used by Lord Scarman in his report on the Brixton race riots in 1981.

"The suggestion that we dreamt it up and have imposed it on this particular case is just not right. I fully understand the commissioner and others who do not like labels, but we said that the concept could be summed up as the collective failure of the organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to *people because of their colour, culture* or ethnic origin.

> ‘We were never for a moment suggesting that people who have racist conversations at dinner should be prosecuted’

"We put it that way because we wanted to get across the distinction between the 'bad apples' of Scarman — the few individual overtly racist officers — and those who support a culture within an organisation such as the police force without intending to do so. I believe we have made it crystal clear that we are not saying that, because we call the Metropolitan Police institutionally racist, every policeman is a racist.

"What we *observed is that* there are pockets of racism, perhaps particularly in the lower ranks of the police force and the canteen. There are people who support each other in what happens without really being fully conscious that they are doing it. But that was never intended by us to be an insult to the officers." He added that, where an officer refused to accept evidence that an attack was purely racist, it could affect his approach to the case. "It's thoughtless, it's ignorant, it's unwitting racism."

He believes firmly that such an attitude can be eliminated, *provided the problem is confronted.* "If, as has happened, people are made to look inwards on themselves and examine exactly what is going on, then I believe it can be eliminated. The report was intended to be optimistic along those lines. Once you accept something, then you can deal with it." The Home Secretary has indicated that he will *not* pursue the recommendation that racist attitudes or behaviour in *private become an offence,* and Sir William accepts that. But he said: "I believe the basis of this to have been misunderstood. We and the public saw the film of the five suspects. What we saw, including ... these young men using vicious knives to simulate stabbing, was accompanied by the most terrible racist language."

He was shocked by the weapons used by the youths in *the video. "In the bedroom of* one was found a large claw-hammer head on a strap like a dog lead. The young men were all using vicious carving knives in a grossly offensive fashion." They would, he said, have been prosecuted if caught with such weapons outside their homes, and he could not see why they should not be equally liable inside.

"We were never for a moment suggesting that people who have racist conversations at dinner or in their own home *should be prosecuted.* We realised, of course, the arguments about invasion of privacy and we knew perfectly well that some people would cry horror. But we decided it was right that it should be considered and debated. If the debate results in it being rejected, well there it is, I have absolutely no complaint about it."

Sir William is more robust in his defence of what some have regarded as the most *surprising of his recommendations:* double jeopardy. This would allow the Court of Appeal to permit a second prosecution in a racist case after an acquittal, if new evidence emerged.

This challenges a basic presumption of British justice — that no one can be tried twice for the same crime. Advances in forensic science had strengthened the argument. "Three of these men were acquitted *because there just wasn't the evidence* for them to be convicted. They are, therefore, deemed to be fireproof for ever." If, however, new DNA evidence had emerged linking one of them to the killing, Sir William thought it right that the case should be reopened. "It would have to be done with strong safeguards, and therefore the occasions would be very rare."

Sir William also defended his argument that the victim of a racial attack was the best judge of its motive. He said the police accepted that view, with the Association of Chief Police Officers defining a racial incident as one "in which it appears to the reporting or investigating officer that the complaint involves an element of racial motivation, or any incident which includes an allegation of racial motivation made by any person".

"We discovered that many officers had no idea this definition existed," he said. "We simplified *it and turned it round.* We believed that it was very important that the victims in these cases should be put first."

So how did he view the accusation that he had been the wrong man for the job; that as a judge based in rural Scotland he was incapable of making a proper assessment of racism on the streets of South London? "Yes," he grinned, "the allegation has been made that I was just an old Scot who knew nothing about young black men in Greenwich, that my record on immigration cases was open to criticism, and that therefore I leaned over backwards the other way in the conduct of the inquiry.

"But why shouldn't I have done it any more than anybody else? I was fresh to some of the arguments about racism, but then so would most people be. All I can say is that I have done my absolute best to be objective throughout, and to listen to the evidence, and to *decide everything on what we* have heard. It wasn't a selfish adventure into what we thought ought to happen."

How has it changed his views on racial attitudes in Britain? "It has not made me more pessimistic about human nature. True, the racism of those young men was worse than anything I've seen in that field, but it is not the first time that my eyes have been opened. I have learnt an extraordinary amount from my experience, particularly in connection with racism. That comes from being a judge. That's your job. That's what you do."

WHAT HIS CRITICS SAID



Making racist comment in private a criminal offence "would be explored and probably rejected as impractical"

— **Sir Paul Condon, Met Police Commissioner**



A change to the double jeopardy rule was wrong because there had to be a finality to criminal proceedings

— **Imran Khan, Lawrence family solicitor**



Drawing up league tables for schools based on the number of racist incidents "amounts to naming and shaming head teachers"

— **David Hart, NAHT general secretary**



The inclusion of some informants' identities and addresses in the report's appendices was a "catastrophic error"

— **Clive Efford, Labour MP for Eltham**

ssons at four put 'too much stress on pupils'

Teachers claim that foundation curriculum is turning boys off learning, reports John O'Leary

PRESSURE on children to begin reading and writing by the age of five is breeding a generation of overstressed youngsters and turning boys off learning, primary school teachers said yesterday.

Children were becoming so regimented that some schools had "playtime lesson plans", in which classroom assistants observed pupils' socialisation, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers was told. Others were having home tuition at the age of five to boost their results in national tests.

Delegates to the association's conference in Harrogate urged ministers to rethink a "foundation curriculum" to be introduced in nursery and reception classes next year. Children as young as four will be expected to play simple number games and take the first steps towards literacy and attempt punctuation.

Shirley Blackman, of Wellesley First School, in Norwich, said that Britain was moving towards a Japanese-style education system for the young, with potentially damaging social consequences. Boys were most at risk because even many bright pupils were not ready to start formal education at the age of four or five.

Mrs Blackman said that middle-class children were under most pressure. "In some streets, the child is a status symbol. Parents want their children to succeed and they have to keep up with the children over the road who are learning to read."

The conference, which had expressed concern at the prescriptive nature of the Government's literacy and numeracy strategies, overwhelmingly supported a motion urging ministers to reconsider the age at which formal education should start. Ms Blackman said that boys' later development inevitably meant that a higher proportion were not ready to read at four or five, although they would succeed easily at six or seven.

"Many of them are bright, inquisitive, wanting to learn and with quite an extensive general knowledge," Ms Blackman said. "What detrimental effect would it have to stream these pupils according to their reading ability — the latest trend encouraged in our larger primary schools?"

Glynne Rowlands, of Woolgrove School, in Letchworth, Hertfordshire, said that he had noted a growing trend towards home tutoring, often aimed at ensuring that children were set in high-ability groups when they transferred from primary to secondary schools.

He said that colleagues at other primary schools had described playground observation of their children, in which ticksheets were used to assess social development. "It is something else to write a few sentences about in reports."

Alison Sherratt, of St Mary's CofE First School, in Bradford, said that, even in nursery school, "infantilely challenged" parents wanted to cram children for national tests two years later. "We have to educate these parents to cool it and let these children have fun while they can."

Delegates supported calls for official research into the benefits of the later start to formal education in other European countries, Australia and the United States.

Call for inquiry into Woodhead 'affair'

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

HEAD teachers made a formal request to Tony Blair yesterday to start an inquiry into whether the Chief Inspector of Schools lied about his relationship with a sixth-former during his days as an English teacher.

John Dunford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said in a letter to the Prime Minister that the credibility of Chris Woodhead as leader of the Ofsted inspection agency was being undermined by a series of allegations of an affair.

"It is surely a matter of concern to you and to the head of the Civil Service that, despite the chief inspector's consistent denials, unanswered questions should continue to be asked in the public domain about a senior public servant," Mr Dunford wrote.

His request followed claims by five of Mr Woodhead's former colleagues at Gordano School, in Portishead, near Bristol, that an affair with Amanda Johnston had been an open secret at the school. Mr Woodhead and Ms Johnston insist that their nine-year relationship did not begin until both had left Gordano.

A spokeswoman for the Education Department denied that the Government had received a dossier of information about the alleged affair.

April 1 heatwave forecast — no fooling

By Susie Steiner

BRITAIN will bask in the hottest start to April for almost a century, prompting a mass Easter exodus to the coast.

Temperatures are forecast to soar above 20C (70F) and could match the record for the hottest April 1, set in 1907 when Cambridgeshire enjoyed 22.6C. However, the tantalising pre-holiday heatwave will cool off slightly over the weekend, with sea breezes cooling hopes of a seaside break.

The Met Office is predicting temperatures of 15C to 18C for inland regions, while coastal areas will be a few degrees cooler, dropping to around 11C along northern seafronts. A spokesman said the long weekend would be "a little chillier with less sunshine, but the temperatures will still be around four degrees above average".

Although it will be hottest inland, holidaymakers are still expected to head for the coast today and tomorrow. The English Tourist Board has predicted 1.2 million Britons will embark on trips within the country, spending about £130 million. "The majority of people, as with most years when the weather is good, will head for the coast," a spokeswoman said.

Mark Smith, head of tourism development for Eastbourne, said that extra staff were being brought in to the seafront kiosks, which normally do not open until the summer season. The resort is preparing for 30,000 visitors. "We are expecting one of the busiest weekends ever," Mr Smith said. "Last weekend set a record — we have never had a busier pre-Easter weekend and it was because of the exceptionally good weather."

Blackpool, its 2,000 hotels, guest houses and flats filling up with last-minute bookings, is bracing itself for 250,000 visitors. "Things are looking very good at the moment," Jane Seddon, the town's head of tourism, said.

The AA is predicting an early start to a heavy rush hour this evening. "We are expecting more people on the roads than last year for sure," a spokesman said. "We are advising people to make sure their cars are roadworthy — for some people this will be the first major trip they have done since Christmas."

The AA is forecasting jams along the main routes leading to Devon and Cornwall, the Lake District and Wales. Traffic is likely to be heavy around the big theme parks, such as Alton Towers in Derbyshire, and Chessington World of Adventures and Thorpe Park, both in Surrey.

A further 1.5 million holidaymakers are spending Easter abroad. More than 800,000 of them will fly out this weekend, according to the Association of British Travel Agents. About half a million Britons are expected to travel under or over the Channel to France, taking advantage of duty-free shopping while it still exists.

The top destinations for long weekend city breaks are Paris, Dublin, Amsterdam and New York. Those taking more time off work are heading for the Canary Islands, Spain, the Balearic Islands, Florida and the Caribbean.

The British Tourist Authority is preparing for an invasion of more than half a million overseas visitors during Easter week, with an increase from France, America, Germany, Ireland and The Netherlands. The influx is expected to boost Britain's economy by at least £240 million as they head for the tourism hotspots in London, Edinburgh, Oxford, Cambridge and Brighton.

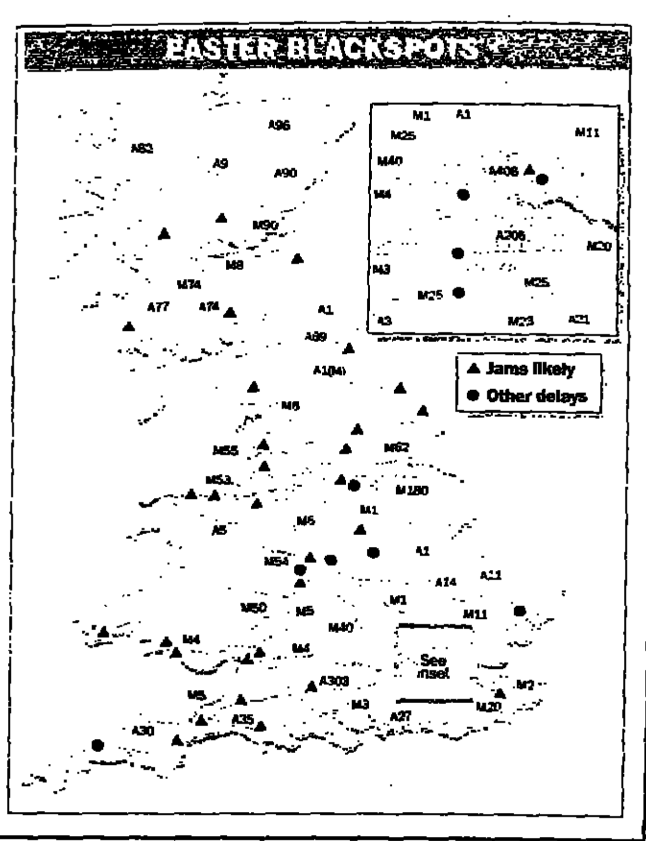
Some will no doubt find their way to the banks of the Thames on Saturday to join the 250,000 spectators watching the boat race.

Forecast, page 28

ALASTAIR GRANT



Easter extravaganza: designer Frederick Fox arranged this daffodil and organza bonnet at his London studio yesterday



Tobacco firms risk ruin after $81m death suit

Mayola Williams after the verdict yesterday

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AN AMERICAN jury's decision to award $81 million (£50 million) damages to the family of a dead smoker could pave the way for thousands of similar lawsuits that experts said yesterday threatened full-blown disaster for the tobacco industry.

The stunning verdict against the Philip Morris Company, consisting of $1.6 million in compensatory damages and $79.5 million in punitive damages, was the biggest of its kind and came in a state where product liability cases are notably hard to prove. Mayola Williams sued the tobacco giant, accusing it of systematically lying about the risks of smoking, when her husband Jesse, 67, a janitor in Portland, Oregon, died of lung cancer after smoking Marlboro cigarettes for 40 years.

For the second time in two months, jurors rejected out of hand the company's defence that those who decide to smoke should accept the consequences of their habit. In the earlier case $51 million in damages were awarded to a living lung cancer victim in San Francisco, where "consumer friendly" laws and progressive courts often produce verdicts that are overturned on appeal. But in Oregon a tobacco firm must be found at least 50 per cent liable for any death or injury before damages are warranted.

With 400,000 smoking-related deaths a year in America, the two verdicts, even though they will be appealed, amount to a warning for so-called Big Tobacco that lawyers may yet bring the industry to its knees as they did the asbestos business in the 1970s and 1980s, analysts said.

"A limited number of verdicts is no problem at all," Professor Gary Schwartz of the University of California said, noting that $80 million represents barely two days' revenue for Philip Morris. "But if these are harbingers of large numbers of verdicts, then that's disaster for the industry."

The company's share price sank nearly 10 per cent on news of the verdict. Other American tobacco stocks also lost ground, signalling a realisation on Wall Street that last year's $246 billion settlement between the industry and state governments to cover smoking-related healthcare costs over the next 25 years has by no means ended the legal onslaught on tobacco. "The industry has got to get its head out of the sand," one expert said as Mrs Williams celebrated her win, which she said granted her husband's dying wish. "He wanted to make cigarette firms stop lying about smokers' health problems."



www.pmdocs.com/ — Philip Morris
www.who.int/toh/ — WHO
www.ash.org.uk/contents.html — ASH
www.tobaccoresolution.com/ — Issues



Jesse Williams: smoked for more than 40 years

'Terminator' faces execution

Ukrainian wiped out whole families in three-month spree of violence, writes Alice Lagnado in Moscow

ONE of the world's worst serial killers, Anatoli Onoprienko, was convicted by a Ukrainian court yesterday on 52 charges of murder. He may receive the death sentence.

Onoprienko, 39, has confessed to killing 52 people, most of them in a three-month period before his arrest, in April 1996. He has never shown any signs of remorse. "I am a normal person," he told NTV television yesterday.

The trial in the western town of Zhitomir lasted four months. Onoprienko was nicknamed "the Terminator" for his shockingly brutal killings of whole families. Russian television yesterday showed gruesome pictures of families he had murdered.

His usual method was to travel the countryside by train, shoot front doors off their hinges, shoot the men and knife the women and children and set their homes on fire. Onoprienko, an orphan, singled out children in particular, mutilating them.

When he went on trial in November 1996 hundreds of people travelled miles to attend the hearing, shouting abuse at the killer. He displayed nonchalance about the court proceedings.

Onoprienko was caught because of his careless behaviour when police called on him with a search warrant and asked to see his documents. He tried to grab a hunting rifle but was too slow — and later this was found to be his weapon of destruction. Before his capture about 2,000 police, thousands of national guards and 3,000 troops had hunted the killer.

Onoprienko, a former forestry student, has never shown any remorse for his brutality. He puzzled psychiatrists because he appeared to have no motive.

Police dealing with the case have said that, unlike most serial murderers, he had no sexual motive and was not suffering from any mental illness, but was intelligent and aware of his actions.

Onoprienko has said that he feels he is a robot, driven on to commit murders by an unknown force, and that he should not be put on trial until the source of this force can be discovered.

During his first court appearance in 1996, he burst out: "This is your law. I consider myself a hostage. Is that clear?"

After his arrest he told a Ukrainian newspaper: "I know it's all very cruel . . . I am ready to spend my whole life in prison to understand. Or to be shot. Of course, I would prefer to be shot because nothing in this life interests me."

His mother died when he was four and his father and elder brother gave him up to an orphanage at the age of seven. Some experts have said they think Onoprienko tried to destroy so many families because his own childhood was so unhappy. During his killing sprees he stole personal trinkets and photographs.

The law enforcement authorities in Ukraine believe Onoprienko committed far more than 52 murders, because of a six-year gap in the 1990s when he wandered around Western Europe, without visas, and robbing people to survive.

It is unclear whether he will be given the death penalty. There has been a moratorium on capital punishment in Ukraine since March 1997, in accordance with Council of Europe regulations. Under Ukrainian law, condemned prisoners are executed with a shot to the head. Given the revulsion felt towards him in Ukraine, putting Onoprienko in a prison cell for the rest of his life will probably cause an outrage.

His trial was postponed because of the difficulties in finding the money to cover travel and living expenses for the 400 witnesses to travel to court.

With Ukrainian courts having no money for such expenses, judges eventually went on national television to ask for help and the Government found £30,000 to cover the costs.

Onoprienko also exploited an article in Ukrainian law which allows suspects to read all the evidence against them before the trial begins. In his case the evidence amounted to 99 thick volumes.

In recent years Russia has replaced the United States as the country with the highest rate of serial murders. Ukraine seems to be especially unfortunate.

Onoprienko was arrested shortly after Andrei Chikatilo, the cannibal killer who murdered 53 people, was executed in 1994.

EFREM LUKATSKY / AP



Some experts believe that Anatoli Onoprienko, an orphan, destroyed families because of his unhappy childhood

WORLD IN BRIEF

Indian exiles win visa-free entry

Delhi: India is granting visa-free entry to "persons of Indian origin" living overseas. On payment of £620, they will be issued with a card valid for 20 years, aimed at "making their journey back to their roots simpler, easier and smoother", the Government announced. An estimated 15 million people will be eligible for the card, which is open to anyone holding a foreign passport and can claim Indian ancestry going back four generations. People from Pakistan and Bangladesh would not be eligible "because of problems of illegal immigration", the Home Ministry said. *(AFP)*

Zoo animals 'have BSE'

Paris: A large number of zoo animals in Europe have been infected by mad cow disease, according to Noelle Bons, a neurobiologist. In one example, she says that, of 26 primates which died at Montpellier Zoo between 1989-1998, five had contracted BSE and a further nine showed signs of the disease. Her study was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Journal*. *(AFP)*

Malaysian virus link

An outbreak of encephalitis in Malaysia, which has already killed 76 people, may be caused by a more deadly version of the Hendra virus first identified in Australia five years ago (Nigel Hawkes writes). The difference is that, while that virus did not spread easily between animals, the Malaysian version apparently does. All Malaysian victims were connected with pig rearing and the toll is causing near-panic.

Qantas wary of 'bug'

Sydney: Qantas may not fly its millennium London to Sydney services across the Pacific if it is unsatisfied with Asian plans to tackle the millennium bug (David Watts writes). Services to Asia may be cancelled and interim stopovers in Bangkok and Singapore abandoned. The Asian financial crisis seems to have diverted money from the problem, leaving some flight control and navigation systems exposed.

Kaunda humiliated

Lusaka: Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's former President, was stripped of his citizenship by a High Court in the Copperbelt town of Ndola. Judge Chalendo Sakala said that, while Mr Kaunda was born in Chinsali in the north, he was a citizen of Malawi because his parents were from there. Much of his 27-year-rule was declared illegal, because he was not a Zambian. *(AFP)*

Debtor kept on leash

Tallinn: A Finn who kept a 40-year-old alcoholic man chained on a dog leash for nine days in 1997 to work off a £1,000 debt was sentenced to five years in prison by an Estonian court, the newspaper *Eesti Paevaleht* reported. Pasi Roininen, 26, from Tartu, denied the charge, and is appealing against the verdict. *(Reuters)*

The balloon that can kill



Dr Thomas Stuttaford on aneurysms; prostate tests; the Prince of Wales and cancer care; E-coli outbreaks; and breakfast eggs

Senator Bob Dole, President Clinton's special envoy to Kosovo, is no stranger to war. During the fighting in Italy at the end of the 1939-45 War he was hit by shrapnel in the neck and shoulder and was paralysed from the neck down for a year. It took three years to regain the amount of mobility he now has. His right upper arm was shattered and the arm is 90 per cent disabled. The muscles of his left hand are wasted and lack feeling.

When he was a law student after the war, his disability prevented him from writing lecture notes but he used a recording machine and later dictated his exam answers. His battle against the Germans has been followed by a long and equally successful fight against his injuries and their consequences.

Recently another possible, very late, sequel to his war injuries has emerged. Senator Dole has an abdominal aortic aneurysm, a weak patch in the great artery leading from the heart to the lower limbs. The artery balloons out where the wall is weak, and, as every parent knows, balloons are apt to burst. All is usually well so long as the diameter of the dilated aorta is less than 5cm and it becomes particularly perilous if it expands to more than 6cm. Senator Dole's is now 4.5cm and is classified as a "small" hernia (4 to 5.9cm); "very small" aneurysms are those under 4cm.

The Senator's admirers will be glad to learn that his aneurysm has not increased in size in the past six months. Aneurysms between 4 and 5cm on average increase by .5cm a year, those between 5 and 6cm increase by .7cm annually, and the very small ones, under 4cm, by .2cm. The rate of increase is very variable, and the recommendation is now to have six-monthly checks. There is a suggestion that for very small aneurysms annual checks — very simply, painlessly, with ultrasound — would be sufficient.

Surgery, which is successful in more than 95 per cent of cases, is usually undertaken when the aneurysm is between 5 and 6cm wide. Aortic aneurysms may be familial, and are sometimes associated with high blood pressure, diabetes, a rise in some types of blood cholesterol and lasting damage to one or more limbs. The Senator's blood pressure is that of a 17-year-old, and he has no diabetes. He exercises and protects his arteries by taking a daily statin pill that lowers cholesterol and hardens intra-arterial plaques.

Surgery for aneurysms was started by John Hunter in 1785. It wasn't successful, and nor was surgery for aneurysms by another great medical name, Sir Astley Cooper. The first successful surgery on the aorta was performed in 1923, 100 years after Sir Astley wrote of his endeavours. After the Second World War huge advances were made in arterial surgery. Surgical techniques with the use of knitted and woven yarn prosthetic hose, which is stitched in to replace the removed weakened walls of the artery, are now very effective. The improved operation and expert anaesthesia, together with a thorough assessment of the patient's cardiac state before surgery, have reduced the mortality to 2 to 10 per cent in the best units. One large survey recently showed 6 per cent. In non-specialist units the average mortality is 15 per cent.

It is typical of Senator Dole's open approach to medicine, and his desire to encourage men to have, as he does, regular examinations, that he allows details of his health to be published. Aneurysms can grow insidiously without symptoms, and are often detected only at routine examinations or by chance. Once symptoms occur — a pain felt in the lower abdomen, radiating to the back and with tenderness over the swelling — immediate surgery is imperative.

● Arterial Aneurysms: diagnosis and management *by Michael Horrocks, published by Butterworth-Heinemann, £55*



To encourage men to see their doctors regularly, Senator Bob Dole allows details of his health to be published

Raising awareness of prostate cancer

Like the accomplished politician he is, Senator Bob Dole has the knack of focusing his energies on to his chosen enthusiasms.

Apart from the duties that one would expect as a former presidential candidate, and the longest-serving Republican Senate leader, he has particular concerns. He is now engrossed in disentangling the chaos of Kosovo, the plight of those in the Balkans with relatives who are missing, and, more generally, men's health, especially prostate cancer.

The Senator's visit to Britain coincided with Prostate Awareness Week and he was immediately interested in the fully subscribed conference organised by the Prostate Cancer Charity, held at the Royal Society. The conference brought together the medical profession, patients who have suffered from prostatic cancer, the patients' families, a minister (Baroness Hayman, Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health) and the media. We all benefited from a vigorous exchange of views, aims and worries.

Senator Dole has spoken frankly on television about the diagnosis of his own prostate cancer, removed by radical prostatectomy in December 1991. Since then he has delighted the American medical profession by exhorting men over 50 (or over 40 for those with a family history) to have a regular diagnostic blood test, the PSA.

He has surprised, and pleased, doctors and the lay public by openly discussing his own post-operative problems of impotency — now relieved by Viagra. After surgery, standard remedies for erectile dysfunction were unsatisfactory, but, as he says, he may not have given them a fair trial because it is difficult to give oneself an injection, or to insert a pellet, if one is suffering from hand injuries. He tried yohimbine extracts made from the bark of an African tree, but only Viagra helped.

Since Bob Dole started to speak publicly about the prostate, hundreds of men have telephoned to consult him about their own problems. The Senator has described in a press release how his tumour had been detected during a routine physical examination, and confirmed by his PSA estimate, transrectal ultrasound and biopsy.

When he was admitted to hospital, scores of fellow sufferers sent him letters and flowers. His first reaction on being told that the biopsy was positive was to disbelieve it because he felt so fit and had no urinary tract symptoms. Only when the diagnosis had been confirmed by another pathologist did he accept it, and then his desire was to "get the cancer out of him and into a jar" as soon as possible.

Senator Dole had no complications post-operatively, other than the impotence. When he was in the Army the Senator had become accustomed to regular health checks of blood pressure, blood and urine tests, and heart examination. He and his wife now have a stand at the Kansas State Fair every year, where they extol the virtues of these regular health checks for men as well as for women.

Senator Dole's routine examination saved his life — he would like British men to have similar tests, thereby saving some of the 9,000 English and Welsh lives now squandered (Scottish statistics are collected separately).

Eggs back on the menu for breakfast

EGGS for breakfast at Easter should not cause any health worries. They may have been painted in bright colours, hunted for in the garden, or have come straight from the refrigerator, but whatever their immediate history, if they bear the Lion quality symbol of the British Egg Industry Council, they will have been produced under ideal conditions.

The new code of practice for egg production sets the highest standards in the world. It even carries the blessing of Professor Richard Lacey, the scourge of the food industry, who has approved such measures as the vaccination of hens against the *Salmonella enteritidis*.

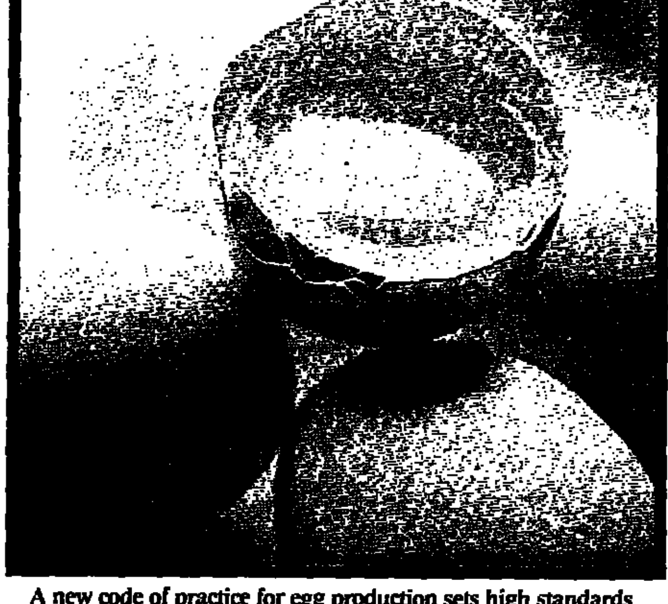
Strict hygiene rules are to be enforced in egg farms and packing centres and, it is claimed, the "passport system" is so precise that an egg can be traced back not only to a farm, but also to a hen.

Cardiologists, as well as microbiologists such as Professor Lacey, are again advocating eggs for breakfast. Saturated fat is mainly responsible for a raised blood-level of low-density cholesterol, the dangerous cholesterol, in susceptible people — and there is relatively little saturated fat in eggs.

Eggs have been rehabilitated. This is just as well, as one egg provides 14 per cent of a man's, and 17 per cent of a woman's, daily protein, as well as vitamins A, D, E and B and numerous minerals.

In the Stuttaford family, Columbus eggs (slightly more expensive) are used. These bear the Lion quality mark but also have an attractively coloured yolk containing above-average quantities of Omega-3 fats which are reputed to be cardioprotective. This has been achieved by feeding the hens on special grains.

It seems an easy health step to have a medicinal egg for breakfast, as well as claret with dinner.



A new code of practice for egg production sets high standards

Royal help for cancer sufferers

EARLIER this month the Prince of Wales hosted a reception at Highgrove for Britain's leading cancer experts from the hospital and hospice services, together with representatives of the major cancer charities. They discussed the need that people with cancer have for outside support, as well as for guidance on how to manage their health. The discussion was based on a project run between the Bristol Oncology Centre, the Department of Sociology at Warwick University, and the Bristol Cancer Help Centre.

Data were collected from patients in Bath, Bristol, London and Manchester between August 1997 and July 1998, using focus groups and a questionnaire.

The Prince of Wales is patron of ten cancer charities including the Foundation for Integrated Medicine, which works to integrate complementary with orthodox medicine. The Prince said that the Highgrove meeting was an excellent example of how progress can be made when patients, their companions, and healthcare professionals work together so that no source of possible help is overlooked, and both scientific and non-scientific disciplines co-operate.

The report, *Meeting the Needs of People with Cancer for Support and Self Management*, is clearly presented, well-produced and contains data from which it draws firm conclusions. Essentially, patients need time to discuss problems. To doctors, these troubles may seem routine. To sufferers, they seem unique.

● *Details from the Bristol Cancer Help Centre: 0117-980 9500.*

E.coli and unpasteurised apple juice

BEEF farmers and butchers are more than a little tired of being the constant butt of health scares. They had a terrible time after the BSE fiasco and their problems since then have been compounded by anxiety induced by outbreaks of infection by *E.coli 0517:H7* and similar strains of *E.coli*.

These organisms are collectively known as the entero-haemorrhagic *E.coli* and are capable of a devastatingly toxic effect on the lining of the blood vessels leading to the gut and, if the toxin is absorbed, on the vessels within the kidney. As a result the watery, later to become bloody, diarrhoea, which is associated with a fever, may, in susceptible people, lead to the haemolytic-uraemic syndrome. This syndrome can lead to kidney failure in the very old and very young, and may be fatal. The serious symptoms usually develop in the infection's second week. *The Annals of Internal Medicine*, a distinguished American medical journal, has now reported on an epidemic that may spread the blame to another group of farmers. It seems that the largest American producers of unpasteurised apple juice, with the most modern equipment and rigorous hygiene regime, have recently been suspected of having disseminated the organism, albeit the exact source of the infection was never found. Even so, the *BMJ* reports that the Food and Drug Administration has insisted that all such juices sold in the US should carry a health warning.

Those living in Britain should rest assured that any sudden tummy upset is more likely to be the result of the effect of apples than the *E.coli* organism.

NORTHANTS PRESS AGENCY



The Yusof family, from left: Sufiah, father Farooq, Noraisha, Iskander, Zuleika and mother Halimahton. Isaac, the 17-year-old entrepreneur, is missing

Brains of Britain

A family of five taught at home have become mathematical prodigies. Report by **Moira Petty**

The advanced algebraic equations flow smoothly on to the page as Zuleika Yusof works through an A-level maths textbook. As I peep over her shoulder she maintains the concentration of one due to sit A levels in maths next year and begin university that autumn.

The session over, Zuleika gets up from her desk, chases her cat across the room, then bounces on her brother's bed, drumming her heels on the wall. Strange behaviour for a putative undergraduate of 18 months' time — but Zuleika turned 5 in January.

Her academic progress is so rapid that she is being assessed every month by her parents, Farooq, 41, and Halimahton Yusof, 42, who have taught all their children at home. All five could read by 2, and Sufiah, now 14, equalled Ruth Lawrence's record of enrolling at Oxford University at 13, "though she was ready four or five years before that", says Mr Yusof.

Iskander, 12, and Noraisha, 16, are at Warwick University. All three are reading mathematics. Only the eldest, 17-year-old Isaac, is not yet at university, though he sat his A levels at 15. He is showing signs of becoming an entrepreneur: "He'll be the first to make a million," says his mother.

But it is doll-like Zuleika who most astonishes. She has just read *Huckleberry Finn* and recently zoomed through a Roald Dahl in 20 minutes — "but she had read it before", says Mr Yusof.

"If she's not at university until 8, that might not be too late but we hope she will soon be attending Warwick with her brother and sister," he adds.

Though her work in maths is carefully structured, other subjects are approached almost arbitrarily but pursued in depth. She became interested in dinosaurs after a trip to the Science Museum and told me how a meteor wiped them out by destroying the food chain. Having studied human anatomy, she drew an outline of a dinosaur then placed all organs within it. She once wanted to be a palaeontologist but is now enthralled by horses. "I want to be a riding-school instructor," she says.

Like her siblings, she rarely mixes with children of her own age. "Sometimes you feel it's an injustice we are imposing on her," says Mr Yusof. "But children have taken books from her hand and torn them." Mrs Yusof, who directs the children's education until the pre-university stage, says: "If children make noise in the library, she says 'How dare they?' She sounds quite pompous but she wants to focus."

Mr Yusof says of teaching his older children: "I may have made too many demands in terms of time; maybe we could have done things differently. Now we have the opposite worries. The other night Iskander was studying until 4am and I did wonder if that was right for a 12-year-old. He wouldn't even come down to watch *Horizon*. They certainly haven't time for soaps, and you won't find records in their rooms."

Mr Yusof came here from Pakistan aged 6. His father was an academic and he himself gained a scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford, to read maths. He met his future wife, who is from Malaysia and a chemistry graduate, when both were doing research at Hull University.

> 'Other parents tried to model their children on them'

They put their first two children in the university nursery when they were toddlers. "From birth we made efforts to introduce them to letters and numbers," says Mr Yusof. "They soon showed signs of wanting to read." There have been no behavioural problems: "They were welcomed wherever they went. Other parents tried to model their children on them and there were invitations in the hope that they would exert peer influence. People think we spent hours with them but they occupied themselves."

When the three eldest were 8, 7 and 5 they were enrolled at a state primary. "That lasted three months," says Mr Yusof. "The school tried to make provision with extracurricular activities. They made Sufiah, who was 5, take responsibility for helping older children. She had written a CV about herself before starting and the staff took her to their hearts. At 8, Isaac was working through the maths GCSE syllabus."

In 1987 Mr Yusof gave up full-time work and, surviving on family money and savings, began to teach at home. He will not reveal his techniques in full but says: "We were restricted financially so we had to find creative means to get results. We made huge three and four-dimensional figures and later most of the work was done on a blackboard in the sitting room. There were no timetables or targets. There was always time for cuddles. We take account of their needs and are there for them.

"Libraries were a second home. If they wanted to read Enid Blyton, they were allowed to. We would exercise care only if they started to internalise certain undesirable practices in the use of English. As they've got older they sometimes don't want us to interfere: they need to make their own mistakes."

There have been no problems with his children going to university. The family met Ruth Lawrence when Sufiah applied "off her own bat" to Oxford. "Ruth said Sufiah should see Oxford as a challenge."

> 'As they get older they need to make their own mistakes'

The Yusofs are Muslims, and believe their faith and family values help the children when faced with the temptations of undergraduate life. "Alcohol and drugs were never part of their lives. We trust our children and no subject is taboo. We don't want them walking into areas through ignorance. Sex is subject to limitations of their ages. As a family we have hobbies and a lot of our time is spent with friends and family."

The four older children are also ranked among the top ten junior tennis players in Britain. Before "maths took over from tennis", as Mrs Yusof puts it, the children went to tournaments without their parents. "You get partisan crowds and they learnt to survive or sink. If we have fears for their safety, they giggle, shake their heads, then off they go," says Mr Yusof.

He adds that his children often outwit him. "Sufiah plays mental games with us and makes us feel past our sell-by date. Prove this, establish that, she says. If I find books flung around in her room, she'll pick me up on chaos theory and tell me there is a structure there."

When Noraisha and Iskander joined Warwick, chosen for its reputation in maths, the family left Northampton and moved into a rented semi opposite the campus in Coventry. Noraisha, "very much a social creature", has a circle of friends "who pour out their troubles to her. She has a divergent personality — very creative. When she was little she would leave footprints all over the carpet, painting with her feet.

"She is interested in biological sciences and is building mathematical models of blood and tissue. Before it accepted her, Warwick tested her on subjects like genetics."

Iskander rushes past on his way to a lecture with a polite grunt. "He is too busy for more than monosyllables," says Mr Yusof. "He's a mathematician's mathematician."

Noraisha went through a phase of "wanting her hair cut a certain way" but none of the girls now cares about fashion. But Mr Yusof says: "We are keen to present ourselves as being normal. We don't want labels put on us."

The family is fiercely competitive. Zuleika asks her siblings for their university assessment marks, sometimes pronouncing: "Can't you do better than that? I'll write to your professor." Sufiah, when tiny, raced her uncles to complete a jigsaw, but did it upside-down. Zuleika recently dragged a stool into the toilet as a prop for a book. "Like the others, she won't waste her time just sitting there," says Mrs Yusof.

They were recently invited on a lecture tour of Malaysia, where they talked about their life before audiences of thousands. There have been requests from education ministries overseas to give advice and offers of funding so they can set up their own institution. "We feel we can help the population at large, and improve universities' methods," says Mr Yusof.

The family may move to America — "we're considering Harvard for postgraduate study" — but already the children have been approached by multinational companies. Zuleika, meanwhile, plays with a toy while explaining the difference between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. Already she is at home on campus; she has joined the maths and Malaysian societies. There is little doubt that she will shoulder responsibilities earlier than most children. Mrs Yusof says: "I feel a loss because my children are disappearing quickly. Most mothers lose them at 18; mine are going out into the world younger and younger." She looks downcast, then brightens: "But we'll have all the grandchildren to look after and educate."

'Cut my belly open noo'

Scots women talk about motherhood and fashion in an oral history edited by **Colin Bell**

■ BETTY: I had my first baby in the house, and the wee midwife, Annie, would sit with the fag hanging from her mouth, and my mother kept giving her tea, and I'm going "Oohhh it's sore" and she'd say, "Oh, I know it's sore, hen," and kept smoking the fag. My mother couldna watch me any longer and went outside, and my Aunt Rose came in and knelt at me wiping my brow. Just before Elaine was born I felt this urge to push and I went, "Right, nurse, I'm ready. You can cut my belly open noo." She says "Ya silly bugger, it comes oot where it went in." That's how much I knew about childbirth, and I was 20.

■ SHEILA: Up in Ross-shire my granny got pregnant and my mother never knew 'til the day she died who her father was. My granny was sent to a farm where the farmer's wife took in unmarried mothers for their confinement. They were there for three or four weeks and then taken back. Then it was my mother's granny that brought her up. But ever after, this was a stigma for the rest of her life, and she always had this sort of chip on her shoulder that she never knew who her father was because nobody talked about it.

■ CAROL: I can remember being friendly with a family in the 1960s and the girl got pregnant and she disappeared. She just disappeared mysteriously for six months or whatever, came back and then got pregnant again within a couple of months. It was a fairly disastrous story, even then in the swinging 1960s.

■ MARY: I can remember I did a late shift at the mill and I can remember my husband bringing my son, who was about one year old at the time, along for me to come out the mill to change his nappy because it was a dirty one. He wouldn't change that although he'd have changed a wet one. I came out the mill, changed the nappy and went back to work and he took the baby home.

Scotland's Century

■ NOREEN: At the end of the war when I was 16, we went into the New Look. Every one was shocked with the New Look at first, everyone being used to uniforms — even the women wore uniforms — and suddenly these long, floaty skirts and cinched waists went to our head like whisky. First of all we were shocked, and then you had to get it. It was wonderful, it was like a release.

I was lucky, I was the generation that was coming up. My sisters' generation was the generation whose boyfriends were called up, who were killed. I was the first of the happy generation.

Girls just five years older than me were biting their nails and they were having affairs because of this "you might never see me again", which was the biggest aphrodisiac in the world. But I was lucky, I was the new wave — the New Look, the new wave, the peace; it really was a champagne time.

■ NICOLA: I remember when I was about five or six years old in the early 1980s, leg warmers were a big thing, and I had loads of colours of leg warmers.

Nowadays, in the 1990s, I think you can categorise people and it still goes by music I think. I like a lot of old 1960s and 1970s music, so I wear all my Dad's old clothes and I go to all the second-hand shops. If you look at somebody in the street you can say whether they go to this club or that club. Or if you see a girl with sort of long hair, looking very feminine, you think she goes to that club. You can categorise people.

A lot of the clubs that I go to, they wear the sort of 1970s clothes and play 1970s music. Look at the new hippies — it's quite a backward attitude I think.

● *Extracted from* Scotland's Century *edited by Colin Bell, to be published by HarperCollins on April 6 (RRP £19.99). Times readers can order a copy for £15.99 from The Times Bookshop on 0990-134 459.*

Scotland the Brave turns topsy-turvy

This war is challenging old loyalties, says Angus Calder

Tony's one of my very oldest friends. We used to play darts together in a pub in Croydon where we were schoolboy members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. He's now a prime mover in Scottish CND. So when he phoned up the other night, my first thought was that he was going to alert me to some important demonstration over Nato's bombing campaign. Not so. Once I had asked rather apathetically if anything like that was happening in Edinburgh, he proceeded to extol the Scottish Chamber Orchestra's series of Beethoven concerts.

Tony's reaction, for me, exemplifies how the current crisis has topsy-turvied political responses. Tony has been on many demonstrations but I don't think he would feel any more comfortable than I would turning out alongside even the mildest Serb.

We have watched on our televisions the strange spectacle of every "responsible" politician backing the Nato strikes while almost all talking heads with any expertise — retired generals, military analysts and historians, Lords Healey and Carrington — have pointed out that the only way to secure control of Kosovo in the interests of its Albanian majority is to push troops in on the ground.

Only in Scotland has an opposition leader gone further than the qualified murmurs of criticism. Alex Salmond, of the Scottish National Party, has declared that Nato's policy is of "dubious legality" and "unpardonable folly".

In his broadcast reply to the Prime Minister's statement on the war, he appealed to a well-remembered incident in Scottish history while arguing that bombing campaigns stiffen rather than soften popular support for leaders. His analogy with the blitz of the industrial town of Clydebank in 1941 was not, however, well-chosen. There is a world of difference between shipyard workers getting swiftly back to work when almost every house in their town has been damaged and the bombing of Serb killers in the field.

And Mr Salmond's proposed alternative policies were not persuasive. He did not join the expert consensus which says "put in the ground troops". SNP policy is to apply a full-scale economic blockade of the Serbs and to police the Rambouillet accord with United Nations rather than Nato troops. This policy might just conceivably have worked six months ago. It is surely unrealistic now, and this mental lurch back towards less alarming times will make it difficult for Mr Salmond to capitalise if, as seems all too likely, Nato's current policy fails so obviously that public opinion turns.

So what was Mr Salmond up to? My own impression was that he was grimly sincere. He is normally the cheekiest and most buoyant of politicians. Not this time. He leads a party long committed to getting Trident missiles out of Scotland and largely overlapping with what might be called "CND sentiment". A lot of his membership will be strongly behind him in spirit.

However, as a politician in the run-up to the elections for the first Scottish parliament, he was, in effect, gambling. If the SNP is to challenge Labour for power in the new parliament it must break outside its current ghetto. Its heartland lies between the Tay and Moray Firth. This is "Scotland the Brave" country. It includes both RAF Lossiemouth and the proud traditional recruiting-ground of the Black Watch and Gordon Highlanders. Mr Salmond's own constituents — farmers, shopkeepers and fishermen — aren't CND types at all.

Where Mr Salmond might hope to gain votes is among disgruntled Labour supporters. The term "old Labour" is confusing here. When Labour conquered Lowland Scotland in the 1980s, it drew support from middle-class radicals who in England might well have voted Liberal while supporting CND. The SNP is less likely to be tilting its cap towards the machine politicians of Strathclyde so obnoxious to new Blairites than in the direction of teachers and nurses sickened by the desertion of old socialist objectives.

Mr Blair is perceived as authoritarian and insensitive, almost as disliked as Margaret Thatcher. By reminding left-wing voters that the CND banner flutters next to the SNP saltire, Mr Salmond is true to his own traditions, but he also hopes to rally those who once marched behind the red flag.

> Salmond's stand may lose him potential Labour converts

Scottish Labour may enjoy a poll lead over the SNP apparently large enough to make it the biggest single party at Holyrood. But it is vulnerable on traditional flanks. The economy is in a debatable state. Job losses are outside the party's control. And so, it seems, is the morale of activists.

The SNP outperformed the opinion polls in its recent victory in the northeast Scotland European by-election because its own supporters worked enthusiastically and got its vote out; Labour voters wouldn't budge from their TV sets. Disillusionment among Labour activists could mean the party's poll lead is illusory.

But Mr Salmond's principled stand still may not help his party to pick up Labour deserters. When a former CND supporter such as Robin Cook denounces Mr Salmond as "the toast of Belgrade" the charge is unfair, but it plays well in the tabloids. In a situation where Ken Livingstone backs the Nato raids and Alan Clark is against it, "socialist", even "CND", reactions are unpredictable. And if my old comrade Tony and I do not find our usual reflexes responding in this crisis, how many others may find Mr Salmond unconvincing? By letting himself be smeared as soft on President Milosevic, Mr Salmond may have lost more potential converts than he gained.

The writer is author of The People's War.

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A balm offensive

Bombarding the Balkans with trade and aid could heal ethnic wounds

Am I for or against the bombing? I don't know. I am no expert on diplomacy, on Balkan history or on military engagements. I have, thankfully, never seen a man being killed, never mind dismembered or shot in front of his wife. Neither have I been in a city under bombardment, wondering if my house would be the next to go and my children would be the next to be burnt alive. How, then, can I possibly have a clear and settled conviction on this subject? And yet I must form a view, not only because it happens to be my job, as a newspaper commentator, but also because as a human being and a citizen I find it unacceptable just to shrug my shoulders and turn away.

What, then, might I have to contribute to the already prolix discussion of this disaster? Just a few personal reflections, drawn indirectly through the experiences of my parents and their families in the holocausts of Hitler and Stalin.

My late father's descriptions of his flight from Warsaw in 1939, with his best friend dying on the road to Bialystok under the strafing of the German aircraft, were so vivid that I dreamt about the war almost nightly when I was a child. My mother was on one of the last trains to escape from the siege of Leningrad before the Germans completed their encirclement in 1941. She told me how they nearly perished because it took so long to persuade her father to leave their home. A former "bourgeois" capitalist who had lost his fortune and been persecuted for 20 years after the Revolution, he refused to believe that the Germans, whom he remembered as honest partners in his pre-revolutionary business, could be any worse than the Communists.

My family's friends and relations who stayed behind in Leningrad died almost without exception, leaving behind only grisly stories, for example about one great-uncle who first ate his dog in the terrible famine, then ate the paste from under the wallpaper of his large apartment and finally ate his dead grandchild before he himself starved to death. This story was related in my family as a commonplace occurrence — the sort of event that was typical in the siege of Leningrad. But despite such incredible suffering among the civilians, the Russian defenders of Leningrad never came close to surrendering the city to the encircling German forces. Leningrad's amazing resistance was motivated not just by the fear of the secret policemen in every platoon and detachment. The war also inspired a genuine patriotism and — believe it or not — a sincere love for "our great Generalissimo and father of the nation" Stalin. And, as in Germany, the more the nation suffered, the more the people were sucked into this demented adoration of their mad leader.

For the West to base its entire military and diplomatic strategy on the slim hope that the Serbs would behave "rationally" and turn against President Milosevic was almost frivolously irresponsible. Yet the fact seems to be that neither the United States nor Britain had prepared any alternative strategy to deal with the bombing campaign's most probable outcome: that it would entrench Mr Milosevic's domestic position and aggravate his atrocities in Kosovo.

Anatole Kaletsky

Now that Mr Milosevic has called the bluff of Nato's "Nintendo warfare", attention is suddenly shifting to the serious possibility that Nato will have to invade Yugoslavia with up to 100,000 ground troops. Yet nothing has been done to prepare public opinion, either in America or Europe, for this daunting prospect. Worse still, nobody seems to have thought about the logistics that would make such an invasion physically possible before Mr Milosevic had finished his dirty work of ethnically cleansing Kosovo. Under these circumstances, it is hardly surprising that the Yugoslav leader seems to treat the possibility of a ground invasion (or of his much-touted prosecution for war crimes) as little more than a joke.

What, then, can now be done to retrieve this situation and save the people of Kosovo? Luckily, I am not a politician and do not have to pretend to know. I do think, however, that two principles could be drawn from experience in trying to devise a more responsible strategy for the future. The first is that, in a war supposedly waged to save the lives of innocent civilians, humanitarian issues must be given at least as much priority as military and diplomatic objectives. Defeating, punishing or even overthrowing Mr Milosevic will be of precious little use if tens of thousands of Kosovans are slaughtered or starved. It is worth recalling that Hitler's defeat did not prevent the slaughter of six million Jews. If Britain, Switzerland and America had been more willing to accept immigrants fleeing Nazi persecution in the 1930s, many more Jews might have been saved.

If the West is serious about its humanitarian motivations in the Balkan conflict, it must put at least as much military and financial effort into helping the refugees as it does into bombing the Serbs. It must ensure that the borders of Macedonia and Albania remain open to the refugees and it must accept full responsibility for feeding and supporting these people — and ultimately of accepting many of them as immigrants to Western Europe. If it were clear that the West was spending two dollars on protecting and helping the refugees for every dollar spent on bombs, I suspect public support for the Nato strategy would become stronger than it is today.

Secondly, the West must have a clearer vision about the sort of societies it is trying to create in the Balkans. A choice has to be made between partitioning the region into ever-smaller racially pure enclaves and trying to rebuild the sort of multi-ethnic societies, albeit in a state of unstable equilibrium, before Yugoslavia began to break up in 1991. Most people's first response, in observing the carnage of the past decade, is to conclude that these warring communities must be separated for good. Yet history suggests this may be the wrong approach.

The Indian scholar Radha Kumar, in his book *Divide and Fall: Bosnia and the Annals of Partition*, argues persuasively that attempts to divide intermingled ethnic groups into separate nations have almost invariably perpetuated ethnic hatreds, provoked demands for further partitions and led to a never-ending cycle of bloodshed as extremists have deployed the irrefutable logic of ethnic cleansing: "Why should I be a minority in your country, when I could make you a minority in mine?" This is what has happened in Yugoslavia since 1991 — and before that in India, Palestine, Lebanon, and Ulster, to name just a few of the object lessons cited by Ms Kumar. This experience also shows that the principle of democratic self-determination, proposed by the West as a panacea for all border disputes since the break-up of the Soviet Union, is more often a poison. Hitler was democratically elected by a population anxious to reassert its national identity, and so was Mr Milosevic.

An alternative solution to ethnic conflict is, on the contrary, to create or recreate the conditions in which different ethnic groups are forced to coexist peacefully, and ultimately find it profitable to live in peace. If this seems impossible, it is worth recalling that Yugoslavia was until the late 1980s one of the least authoritarian and most prosperous countries of the former Eastern bloc. It was not a democracy, but the different races did peacefully coexist. To recreate the old Yugoslavia would, of course, be impossible. But the West's ultimate objective must surely be to reintegrate all of the warring Balkan groups into some kind of larger community. This must be based on economic co-operation, backed not only by financial aid but also by the right to sell to, live and work in Western Europe. Instead of just trying to bomb the Serbs into submission, perhaps we should offer them, along with the Croatians, Albanians and Kosovans, the carrot of early membership of the European Union as soon as they can show they are again a civilised nation. Fortress Europe should learn to lower its battlements if it wants to build a truly secure continent.

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'The British Museum should recognise that the hold of history operates more subtly than the gee-whizzery of science'

Jayne Dowle

It's got more jewellery than Joan Collins, entertained almost as many Americans, and has a façade easily as beautiful, though a little less well-maintained. But the British Museum, the grand old girl of Bloomsbury, lacks the one thing Miss Collins has in abundance — the ability to sell herself to fresh generations without sacrificing her essential mystery. It is a national shame that the British Museum, the repository of countless treasures accumulated from everywhere on earth, is still regarded by many as dusty, irrelevant and dull.

The genius of great British institutions, from the Labour Party, through Longleat to Miss Collins, is the capacity to reinvent themselves while staying true to tradition. The future of the British Museum has been thrown into focus with the appointment of a strong-minded woman, Suzanna Taverne, as its first managing director. The best way in which she can make the museum more modern is by recovering its very British past.

Whatever Suzanna Taverne does, it would be a tragedy if she turned the British Museum into yet another all-singing, all-interacting playground for 11-year-olds who think the contents of tombs are fit only for plundering by Lara Croft on the PlayStation. While it is important that history and culture are made accessible to as many people as possible, it would be unforgivable if centuries of scholarship and research were sidelined in favour of knobs-on excitement.

The British Museum can, of course, learn from some other institutions that have modernised. But it must be true to itself. The Science Museum has certainly been hugely successful in its attempt to attract younger visitors through a sophisticated array of interactive exhibits which teach without talking-down. But the British Museum should have the confidence to recognise that the hold of history operates more subtly than the gee-whizzery of science. And it can do so by making the most of its Britishness to complement its global collection.

It rises out of Bloomsbury, a massive Greek Revival temple, set in a garish sea of a hundred tourist buses. To most Londoners, who scurry by without giving it a second glance, the British Museum is the place of boring school-trips, and that controversy over the Elgin Marbles. When it was founded, by Sir Hans Sloane in 1753, the Government implored the trustees to admit "all studious and curious persons". Critics say that it is attracting too many of the former and not enough of the latter.

It is still the most popular museum in London, with six million visitors a year. But 60 per cent of its visitors are from abroad. Foreigners seem to love the British Museum; to them it is Ancient Greece, Rome and Egypt all rolled into one with a roof over it. The problem is not the visitors themselves, but the wrong kind of visitors. A new emphasis on the Island Story of Adventure that binds the collection should be made to attract a new generation of Britons.

A sensitive policy of openness, information and education is what is required. Ms Taverne should encourage the shy and retiring types who inhabit its halls and corridors to undertake more talks and presentations about the priceless items in their custody. She should think carefully about siting the excellent temporary displays in more prominent areas within the building, instead of letting them be crammed into a room somewhere up a staircase and down a long confusing corridor. The thrill of discovery is all very well but teenagers looking for ancient artefacts should not have to face an expedition almost as fraught as Indiana Jones's adventures in the Temple of Doom.

Most importantly, she should find a way of celebrating and promoting the British Museum as a truly British institution. The Smithsonian in Washington is the cultural pride and joy of the nation. The British Museum should become a museum of Britain, exploring the pioneering spirit of the past, and yes, if necessary, admitting to the plundering that our forefathers practised to amass the collection. Whatever the arts policymakers might think, the public have a strong stomach for the truth, and given the right stimulus, the imaginations of small boys (and girls) can be equally as excited by descriptions of treks across dangerous terrain to seek out precious treasures as they can be by holograms of their own grinning faces.

It should, like Miss Collins, celebrate the acquisitive urge which garnered so much of beauty and wonder. Such a museum of ancient shopping and looking would be preferable to the unthinkable alternative: that the British Museum becomes just an exhibit of the way that museums used to be.

comment@the-times.co.uk

THE TIMES DIARY

Keeping ahead

THE hullabaloo about the naming of the "headless man" in the Duchess of Argyll divorce scandal of the Sixties is premature.

Michael Thornton promised to solve the mystery of the offshore star captured in a Polaroid snap indulging in an after-dinner entertainment with Margaret, Duchess of Argyll. But more than a decade after the author was commisioned to write the study, his publisher complains that the manuscript has "not even been written". Ventures Michael Joseph: "We have no plans in the immediate future to publish. I do not know what has happened to it. All this publicity is not helpful." Bad news, this, for the *Daily Mail*, which seems keen to publish the oldest story in town.

AS Peter Mandelson clambered wearily into a lift, Brian Cotter, a Lib Dem MP, inquired: "You going up?". To which the resting politico responded: "Sadly not."

■ FEMMES FATALES are the latest obsession of Honor Blackman, the leather enthusiast, who is to crack the whip at Ronnie Scott's.

The actress is to appear in *Dishonourable Women*, her one-woman show celebrating feminine pragmatism from Eve to Mae West. Oddly, she has banned smoking and drinking for her act.

"I discovered that the audience sits at little tables and drinks, eats



and smokes," she says. "A smoky atmosphere is no good for the voice and I'm not used to people clinking glasses while I'm on stage." The club agreed to change its policy and expects Honor's aficionados to do little more than lie back and recall *The Avengers* (above).

IAN MAXWELL is to remarry. The son of the late and dodgy tycoon, who split from Laura, his lovely first wife, three years ago is engaged to Tara Dudley Smith. Maxwell Jr, who works with his brother Kevin for a publishing company, met the art conservation student at a party in the country a year ago. Susan Gilmour, her Mum, says: "I am thrilled to bits."

■ TEST of the year: persuading Ann Widdecombe to visit Stringfellows. She met Peter at the launch of Father Michael Seed's *Will I See You In Heaven?* He offered her blandishments to meet his angels. Later, Ann ushered Sir Angus Ogilvy and Suggs (of the popsters Madness) out of the House, declaring herself "the bouncer".

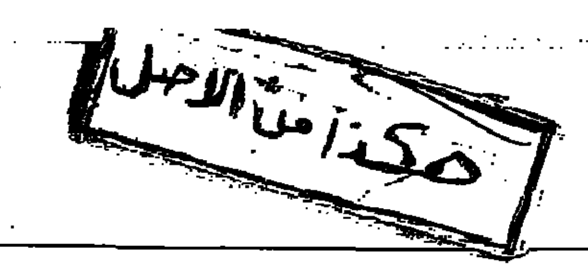


OUR Norm has got on his easel. Lord Tebbit is displaying his creative bent by taking up a career as a painter. When asked to contribute a drawing for the "Art for Survival Wildlife Auction" at Christie's, he said: "I could never draw an elephant in my life." But admiring his doodle on House of Lords notepaper, he commented: "I never realised I had such talent."

■ MAJOR Ronald Ferguson has a new role: urging men to get their bits checked. Ron has become a patron of the Prostate Cancer Support Association. "Men are much more wary than women about checking themselves with a doctor," says the galloping major (thankfully in remission from the disease himself). "It is ingrained in the male mentality."

CHRISTINE HAMILTON comes close to condoning adultery in her new role as the Westminster Review's *agony aunt. Responding to a future best man who fears the groom will stray, she says: "If you fancy his wife-to-be, keep an eye on the situation. She may need you."*

JASPER GERARD





THE FOG OF WAR

Strategies for the sure defeat of Milosevic

The first week of Nato airstrikes has ended in public frustration and anxiety. Militarily, that is not particularly surprising; it is far more difficult for laymen to follow the progress of bombing campaigns than it is to track ground troops; the opening stage of the air war against Iraq aroused anxieties too. The strategic campaign has run more or less to plan, inflicting heavy damage on Yugoslav air defences and ammunition dumps, communications and logistics, repair facilities and — probably the most important — military fuel depots. That will rattle Yugoslav commanders more than may appear; with Croatia still ambitious to regain disputed territory, the progressive disabling of their military machine leaves them vulnerable to more than Nato.

The damage will also hobble Serb forces in Kosovo. The trouble is that there is no reassuring evidence of that yet. For the urgent tactical task of stopping Serb forces in their murderous tracks, Nato's combined air power has appeared agonisingly irrelevant. The defenceless people whom Nato is there to save continue, in scenes of black horror, to be mercilessly purged, their dwellings flattened and their communities wiped off the pages of history.

Nato's decision to escalate its attacks and rethink its objectives, earlier than some governments would have liked and at greater risk to its pilots, reflects the political reality that it must not go on looking as though it is in the wrong war. The military planning has had flaws. It is no good blaming bad weather: that is hardly unusual in the Balkans at this season, and the world's most powerful air forces should be able to master the "wrong kind of cloud". It is legitimate to ask why Britain, for example, did not have the all-weather Tornado in position right from the start.

Equally, even though the genocidal operations in Kosovo exceed in scale, ruthlessness and criminality what was anticipated, it was consistent with everything that is known about Slobodan Milosevic that his riposte to airstrikes would be to step up atrocities against civilians. Nato was never, therefore, going to have as much time as it had in the Gulf to degrade air defences before deploying ground-attack aircraft against tanks, troops and artillery. Yet the lethally accurate American B1B tactical bomber, able to penetrate air defences, is only now being deployed, together with five extra radar-jamming Prowlers. Along with the formidable A10 Warthog, these are Nato's best method of destroying the small highly mobile Serb units in Kosovo, which make extremely difficult targets for air power.

The calculus of military advantage could now change quite rapidly. But if more aggressive tactics do not begin to make a dent on the killers in Kosovo within days, rather than weeks, the logic of this war will point increasingly to ground troops. That will confront Nato leaders with the one decision that they have all insisted is out of the question. A Nato peacekeeping force of 28,000 is ready; once Mr Milosevic puts out the white flag, it would take no more than days to move sufficient troops into Kosovo. But there is no consensus now in Nato for the much more formidable commitment that a ground offensive would involve.

This would have to be a Nato operation, for military as well as political reasons. To muster a fully equipped force of up to 200,000, contributions by all Nato states will be needed. Not all can produce frontline troops of the calibre required, but they can provide logistics, signals and communications support. The military argues, correctly, that a ground offensive is no solution to the present emergency; even if it were agreed, deployment would take two months. Mr Milosevic could empty Kosovo of Albanians well before that. But it would put him under notice that Nato was determined to do whatever it took to make this a pyrrhic victory, ending in certain rout. America, Britain and France should consult now on a strategy to persuade Nato's 19 governments — and the American Congress — to think the unthinkable; because it is even more unthinkable that Nato should fail to stamp out the "great terror" that it is no exaggeration to accuse Mr Milosevic of inflicting. The human cost of his rule is appalling enough; but the erosion of Nato's will to mount guard over European stability would be a casualty of unimaginable consequence for peace.

LORDS A' LEAPING

The Bill will pass easily but the hard questions remain

It has been 'perhaps the most curious example of capital punishment in British political history. The parliamentary battle over the reform of the House of Lords has been not so much a damp squib but a thoroughly wet blanket. The legislation sailed through the House of Commons with the most interesting debate occurring among Conservatives rather than across the party divide. Even in the Upper House, opposition has appeared relatively muted. The instinct of most Conservative peers was to accept the Cranborne compromise — the device that allowed 91 hereditary peers to remain in the Lords — and accept a reasonably dignified form of retirement.

In the short term this compact may be threatened by the approach taken by the Lord Chancellor. Lord Irvine of Lairg adopted a needlessly harsh tone when he told Tory peers that they should pass the Bill at once or face the prospect of the Cranborne deal passing into history. That fact was transparent enough without such a brusque form of restatement. This may encourage a "kamikaze squad" of hereditary members to attempt to obstruct this legislation. That could prove inconvenient in the next few weeks but in the longer term will not be remotely consequential.

The truth is that the Royal Commission on Reform of the House of Lords, rather than either chamber at Westminster, is by far the most important forum on this issue. The commission published an initial document last week to make plain what it considered to be the central questions. That text invited comments on certain areas — such as potential additional powers for the House of Lords over constitutional matters — that had not been offered the same prominence in the Government's White Paper on the subject. There is some hope that this apparently conservative set of commissioners may exceed expectations.

That should be their objective. The early day motion last week, put down by Andrew Tyrie, MP, calling for an elected Upper House, attracted the support of some 131 MPs. This is not an ideal solution in that if enacted it would require either a reduction in the formal powers of the House of Lords or virtually invite intense legislative gridlock. Neither would be satisfactory. This campaign will, nonetheless, increase the pressure on the Commission to exercise its collective imagination rather than adopt the sort of incremental blueprint that would make it the toast of the Whips' Offices.

This intellectual dexterity would be more than welcome. Over the next 12 months Britain will witness a series of substantial changes to the constitution, not least devolution, that are, for the moment at least, separate rather than co-ordinated creatures. The reform of the House of Lords should be an opportunity to square several important circles. The Government sometimes offers the impression that it thinks this measure is simply a means of removing hereditary peers from the parliamentary car park. It is now up to the Royal Commission to produce an outline that might strengthen the quality of parliamentary democracy in this country.

HOT, WET AND HEALTHY

A cuppa *Camellia sinensis* is good for you

When he had a funny tummy, Peter Rabbit's mother gave him camomile tea. Scientists now endorse her cure. Tea is good for the health. Drinking green tea, not camomile, is best of all. By inhibiting the growth of new blood vessels, a component of green tea can help to prevent and treat cancers and blindness caused by diabetes. Instead of trying to escape enslavement to tea and "slopkettles", as William Cobbett encouraged, those wishing to stave off disease will find the leaves of *Camellia sinensis* just their cup of ch'a.

A servant of the Chinese Emperor Shen Nung put the kettle on for the first brew in 2737 BC. Some leaves from a nearby tree fluttered into a pot of boiling water. Centuries later, William Gladstone was still extolling the virtues of Shen's chance creation: "If you are depressed it will cheer you; if you are excited it, it will calm you." Anna, 7th Duchess of Bedfordshire, turned tea from a drink into a meal. One afternoon, 150 years after Thomas Garway first sold China Tcha to Englishmen as a cure for "gripping of the guts, cold, dropsies, scurveys", the duchess experi- that time) between lunch and dinner. This is one area in which West and East have happily met.

After five sleepless years contemplating Buddha, Bodhidharma, the founder of Zen Buddhism, also had a sinking feeling. He plucked some leaves off a wild tea tree, chewed them, and felt revived. Zen Buddhist monks followed his example. Green tea, rich in vitamin C, B2 and carotene, helped to keep them awake. A Japanese monk, Myoan Eisia, brought tea to his homeland in 1191. His disciple, Dogen, drew up rules for when monks should drink the "honcha", true tea. And so the tea ceremony, *Cha-no-yu*, slowly infused into Japanese society.

The Duchess of Bedfordshire might have approved of Japanese teatime. The 16th-century Sage Of Tea, Sen-no-Rikyu, decreed that it should be chaste and simple. The host needed a whole teahouse, into which participants would crawl through a small door to sit on mats, measured to a stipulated size. There was little cosy about the ceremony, not even a woolly hat for the teapot. The British are able to enjoy the perfect cup without such refined manners

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Serbia's guilt and Nato's arrogance

From Mr John Henderson

Sir, I am sick of the pontifications of priests and politicians who think bombing Serbia is "immoral" and that appeasement is the answer. I wonder how many of them have actually been to Bosnia and Serbia and witnessed the true immorality of an ethnically cleansed village or spoken to the people whose culture of hatred allowed it to happen.

I went there last year with an aid convoy and the lasting impression, beyond the destruction of homes and lives, was that the Serbs we met had no understanding that what their nation had done was wrong.

Serb mayors would tell us how their towns had suffered an influx of refugees after the peace deal over Bosnia, then announce many had been rehoused in "abandoned homes" — ignoring how they came to have so many abandoned homes. Individual Serbs would blame everyone but their own nation for their plight.

We now see the same thinking among the expatriate Serbs protesting all over the world at the bombing while refusing to condemn the behaviour that led to it. The people carrying out atrocities in Kosovo know the world is watching and they do not care what we think because to them this is acceptable behaviour.

Yours,
JOHN HENDERSON,
Summers Farm, Hurdle Drove,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP28 8RQ.
31 March.

From Mr K. D. Boyd

Sir, The political structures that the Balkans have adopted are not to our liking. We have other, more mature, ways of dealing with our disputes that seldom involve bloodshed. If the Balkans wanted anything different they would have grown and developed such systems. What they have is what they want.

I tremble at the arrogance of the West trying to impose its own political solutions on another country. We tried to do it to Africa and failed. When the fighting stops the Kosovans and Serbians will have to start all over again the learning, maturing process. All that has been achieved by our interference is to set the clock back many years.

Yours faithfully,
K. D. BOYD,
Rogate House, Rogate,
Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 5HQ.
30 March.

From Mr Karim Chowdhury

Sir, One cannot and should not forget the sacrifices the Serbs have made in the past (letter, March 29). However, it is naive to think that the Serbs fought against the Nazis purely for Britain's interest and did not have their own nationalist interests. If they had supported Hitler that would have been immoral and their history further blackened.

Britain does not owe any debt to nations that persecute and oppress innocent civilians and suppress democracy, irrespective of their past support.

Yours faithfully,
K. CHOWDHURY,
46 Keswick Gardens, Ilford IG4 5NB.
March 29.

From Captain P. R. D. Kimm, RN (retd)

Sir, Although I have scanned your columns carefully and listened avidly to the radio and television news, I have yet to read or hear a single word regarding the reaction of the UN secretariat to the appalling tragedy in the Balkans.

Do they know of the scale of the ethnic cleansing there? Have they condemned it? Have they a view on Nato's intervention? Do they support it? If not, what action do they propose instead?

Yours faithfully,
PETER KIMM,
69 New Brighton Road,
Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 7QR.
March 29.

From Dr Andrew C. Woodward

Sir, Does the $10.7 million released by the EU for emergency aid (report, March 31) not sound a little inadequate for the more than 100,000 refugees we are supposed to be helping, but who are primarily being supported by two of the poorest countries in Europe?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WOODWARD,
28 Wellington Street,
Hillside, Edinburgh EH7 5ED.
baly@woowar.demon.co.uk
March 31.

From the Reverend Humphrey Southern

Sir, In the recent armed conflict in Iraq some sense of delicacy restrained Allied commanders and their political leaders from ordering strikes in the holy month of Ramadan. We have already seen the forces of the West ordered into action against the Serbs during the Christian Holy Week. Are they to drop bombs, also, on Good Friday and Easter Day?

Yours faithfully,

Female circumcision goes on despite legal ruling

From Baroness Jeger

Sir, Your fascinating and frightening feature on female circumcision, "Women at our mercy" (Weekend, March 27), concluded: "Thousands of illegal operations are still thought to take place in Britain every year."

We do not know the numbers because officialdom has no account of them. Some of us in Parliament had to work hard to ensure the passing of the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act of 1985. But since then there has not been a single prosecution under the Act, although there is plenty of reliable anecdotal evidence that the practice is increasing here.

In a debate in the House of Lords on November 10, 1998, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath said (*Hansard*, col 747):

> The fact that there have been no prosecutions is not because the Crown Prosecution Service or the police are not enforcing it; nor is it because of a lack of clarity in the existing law. It is because of the difficulties in obtaining evidence to support prosecutions.

These crimes have deep roots in the culture and traditions of many countries. But we do not pass laws in this country which can be ignored because they do not apply in other countries. As far as evidence is concerned, why do they do better in France? In February, an African woman was jailed in Paris for eight years for circumcising 48 young girls (News in brief, February 17).

There is also legislation, so far unused, under the Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy Act 1998), which was referred to by Lord Hunt in the same debate (col 746):

> It is now an offence for a person to conspire to commit an offence outside the UK provided the act constitutes an offence both under the law in the UK and under the law in the country in which the act is to be committed.

As the number of countries banning female circumcision increases it should become possible to deal with immigrants here who take their daughters "home" for this purpose.

There is an understandable wish not to be regarded as cultural imperialists interfering with human rights elsewhere, but this should not excuse our lack of prosecutions. When I represented the UK on the Status of Women Commission at the UN, I found that it was delegates from the very countries where mutilation is practised, and where many of them had been victims, who begged us luckier women for help. They were brave women, like Waris Dirie, now a UN special ambassador (interview, Magazine, March 6), giving voice to the pain of 130 million women across the world.

Too many of these women are here. The Government is helping, with grants to the Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development, known as "Forward", and to the North-West London African-Somalian Well Women Project, at Central Middlesex Hospital. There is much to be done in alerting all in the public services to the sort of evidence needed for prosecution.

And what about the men? They often refuse to marry girls who have not been "done" (letters, March 15). They need education (in its widest sense) to understand the damage caused by female circumcision — difficulties with micturition, sepsis and problems in childbirth which often lead to maternal and infant mortality.

Yours,
LENA JEGER,
House of Lords.
March 30.

From Dr Christopher Gardner-Thorpe

Sir, Jean-Martin Charcot (1825-93) is the prominent character depicted in your marvellous colour reproduction of André Brouillet's 1887 picture, *Une Leçon Clinique à la Salpêtrière*. Charcot was one of the foremost clinical neurologists of the century, born in the year after James Parkinson (1755-1824) died and it is Charcot, allegedly, who first introduced the term Parkinson's disease.

Charcot is shown teaching during one of the Tuesday morning sessions, and the patient, Blanche Wittman, swoons apparently with hysteria. Charcot was said to have been quite rude to his patients and the lessons were dubbed *théâtre-français*. Indeed, some heavy criticism of his teaching method probably contributed to the greater care which doctors are exhorted, rightly, to exercise nowadays in the teaching of clinical medicine where the help of patients is irreplaceable.

Yours sincerely,
C. GARDNER-THORPE
(Consultant neurologist),
The Coach House,
1a College Road,
Exeter, Devon EX1 1TE.
March 29.

International hallmark standards

From the Under-Secretary of State for Competition and Consumer Affairs

Sir, Mr Lawrence Brewer (letter, March 23) appears to give credence to Professor Declan Anderson's mistaken belief (letter, March 20) that Community law requires numerical (millesimal) indication of the fineness of articles of precious metal hallmarked in the United Kingdom.

In line with Article 30 of the EC treaty, the Hallmarking Act has been amended to allow articles of precious metal which bear hallmarks from other member states of the European Economic Area which operate systems equivalent to our own to be marketed in the UK without further hallmarking here, and to abolish the distinct hallmarks which were previously struck on imported articles.

The British Hallmarking Council has produced guidance on those marks which would, in its opinion, meet the necessary conditions. In all but one case, these have been accepted here under the international Convention to which the UK has been a signatory since 1972.

A number of changes were also made to the Hallmarking Act but, although these mostly followed on from the changes required by EC law, they were not EC requirements. Hence the range of finenesses to which UK assay offices can hallmark has been increased to ensure that UK manufacturers can produce articles of precious metal to the same principal standards of fineness as their competitors in Europe, although not the lesser-known standards since a proliferation is not in the interests of consumers.

Since January 1, UK hallmarks have also been required to include a numerical indication of the standard of fineness, instead of the increased range of finenesses which will appear on the market. However, existing traditional fineness symbols — the lion for sterling silver and the crown for gold — will continue to appear alongside the millesimal mark as voluntary marks.

The draft EC Directive to which Mr Brewer refers would require the UK to accept articles subject only to manufacturer-marking, ending mandatory hallmarking and lowering the high level of consumer protection in this country. If the proposal was adopted in its current form, the UK's traditional hallmarks would almost certainly be replaced by a letter "e".

Yours sincerely,
KIM HOWELLS,
Department of Trade and Industry,
1 Victoria Street, SW1H 0ET.
March 25.

From Mr R. D. Buchanan-Dunlop, Clerk of The Goldsmiths' Company

Sir, May I reassure Professor Anderson that all four UK assay offices will continue to put the lion passant on sterling silver, if requested, in addition to the figure 925. Although the UK may be ahead of the game, the Dutch Assay Office will in due course undoubtedly be required to toe the line: after all, it was a complaint against that office which sparked the current ruling from the European Court of Justice.

Mr Brewer's remarks need qualification. The British Hallmarking Council and the DTI have been at pains to ensure that the new regulations do not prejudice British manufacturers. The European Court's judgment was an unequivocal ruling that the independent testing and marking of precious-metal articles provide a superior form of consumer protection to a manufacturer's marking system.

Most of the British jewellery trade rightly wants our system of hallmarking to continue.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN BUCHANAN-DUNLOP,
Clerk, The Goldsmiths' Company,
Goldsmiths' Hall,
Foster Lane, EC2V 6BN.
March 26.

Balloon record

From the Secretary General of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale

Sir, Professor Harry McWilliam (letter, March 24) was not, I am quite sure, trying to play down the achievement of Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones by calling attention to the fact that their balloon's trajectory did not cross the Equator.

The flight fully complied with the detailed requirements for round-the-world flights of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale — the organisation that, since 1905, has been responsible for ratifying all world records in aviation. These requirements — in addition to requiring the balloon to cross all the meridians — specify that the flight must take place between certain latitudes, outside the polar "caps".

Crossing the Equator may, in the public eye, have added still further lustre to an incredible achievement, but there is no doubt that Jones and Piccard went round the world, by the longstanding official definition.

Jules Verne would have been satisfied — the *Breitling* crew carried with them a signed, first-edition copy of his famous book.

With best regards,
MAX BISHOP,
Secretary General, Fédération Aéronautique Internationale,
Avenue Mon Repos 24,
1005 Lausanne.
sec@fai.org
March 29.

Teachers' pay

From Miss Gertrud Seidmann

Sir, I am no firebrand, but this time — by Jove! — I'd come out with the teachers. "Performance-related pay" indeed (News in brief, March 20).

The best judges of teachers' performance are their pupils, and no one is going to ask them.

Yours etc,
GERTRUD SEIDMANN,
University of Oxford,
Institute of Archaeology,
36 Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2PG.
March 30.

By fits and starts

From Mr Russell Lewin

Sir, I doubt there's a better example of bad news being given a soft edge than an announcement on my Chester to London Virgin West Coast service on March 14, when we were informed that our delayed train had been "retimed" and would arrive at Euston half an hour later than originally scheduled.

Even Gordon Brown would be proud of that one.

Yours etc,
RUSSELL LEWIN,
75 Melrose Avenue

Arms decommissioning

From Mr Alistair B. Cooke

Sir, The chronicle of the unsuccessful attempts which have been made since 1995 to induce the IRA to begin decommissioning ("A passage of arms", March 29) underlines the failure of both Conservative and Labour Governments, and of Senator George Mitchell, to secure the progress in this vital area which they explicitly undertook to achieve at earlier stages of the peace process.

Would it not therefore be more becoming if Mr Blair and other politicians and commentators outside Northern Ireland showed a little more humility and understanding instead of constantly giving the impression that the elected leaders of the Northern Ireland parties should be able to achieve the breakthrough which eluded them?

I have just attended a service of remembrance to mark the twentieth anniversary of the murder of Airey Neave, for whom I worked. He was a man who understood that British leaders must not shuffle off their responsibilities on to the shoulders of others.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR B. COOKE,
Flat 1,
68 St George's Square, SW1V 3QT.
March 30.

A-level reform

From the Director for Engineers' Regulation at the Engineering Council

Sir, Mr Michael Tiley suggests (letter, March 22; see also letters, March 25) that it would be useful if an authoritative body produced a reliable table indicating equivalence of GCE A levels, Scottish Highers and the International Baccalaureate.

The Engineering Council publishes just such a table as a means of guidance to universities intending to run accredited engineering degree courses. Our table is based on the experience and knowledge of the engineering academic community, and also includes several other qualifications, such as GNVQs and BTEC.

Copies appear on our website at *www.engc.org.uk/sartor/Sect411B.rtf*

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW RAMSAY,
Director, Engineers' Regulation,
Engineering Council,
10 Maltravers Street, WC2R 3ER.
March 30.

Wheels of justice

From Mrs Diana Waller

Sir, How long, I wonder, before the Criminal Cases Review Commission (report, "Police 'covered up' A6 murder evidence", March 30) seeks an inquiry into whether Cain really did kill Abel?

Yours etc,
DIANA WALLER,
Sandilands, Boughton Hall Avenue,
Send, Woking, Surrey GU23 7DE.
March 30.

Sign of spring

From Mrs Olwen Davis

Sir, Observing the migratory habits of the navel (letters, March 19, 23 and 29) would seem to be rather more scientific a study than I had first appreciated. The one I spotted in Fishguard this afternoon had been ringed.

Yours faithfully,
OLWEN DAVIS,
Min-yr-Afon.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 31: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, today attended Receptions for Young People who have reached the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron, this evening attended an Outward Bound Trust Dinner at Buckingham Palace.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 31: The Prince of Wales visited Surrey today and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Surrey (Mrs Timothy Goad).

His Royal Highness this morning visited MacLaren International Ltd at Woking Business Park, Woking, where he toured the factory and met staff.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, afterwards met Volunteers and Prince's Trust-funded local businesses in the Town Square, Woking.

His Royal Highness subsequently visited the Surrey History Centre at Goldsworth Road, Woking, where he toured the centre and met staff. The Prince of Wales then launched the Surrey History Trust. His Royal Highness, Patron, Macmillan Cancer Relief, this afternoon opened the Beacon Centre, Guildford, where he met staff and patients.

The Prince of Wales finally visited St Piers at Lingfield, Surrey, the national centre for children and young people with epilepsy and other neurological disorders. His Royal Highness toured the centre and met staff and patients.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, Welsh National Opera, this evening attended a performance of *Hansel and Gretel* at Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1.

His Royal Highness was represented by Dr Eric Anderson at the funeral of Dr Michael Aris at the Oxford Crematorium today.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will distribute the Royal Maundy during the Maundy service in Bristol Cathedral at 11.00; as patron, will visit the Royal West of England Academy, Queen's Road, Clifton, at 2.40, and will tour the galleries and see displays of the academy's restoration and development activities.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a civic luncheon given by Bristol Chamber of Commerce at the Mansion House, Clifton, at 1.05.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Cameron Balloons, St John's Street, Bedminster, at 2.40.

Erica (O'Donnell) Kisielewska Dunbar

A memorial mass for Erica (O'Donnell) Kisielewska Dunbar, MBE, will be held at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London W1, on Thursday, May 20, 1999, at 10.30am.

Furniture Makers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Furniture Makers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr J.A. Jacobs; Senior Warden, Mr S.F. Brown; Junior Warden, Mr P.G. Keen.

Birthdays today

Miss Brigitte Askonas, FRS, immunologist, 76; Mr George Baker, actor, 68; Sir David Davies, former chairman and chief executive, Johnson Matthey, 59; the Rev Norman Drummond, Scottish Governor, BBC, and Chairman Broadcasting Council for Scotland, 47; Mr Alex Falconer, MEP, 59; Professor R. Floud, Provost, London Guildhall University, 57; Sir Anthony Gill, former chairman and chief executive, Lucas Industries, 69; Mr David Gower, cricketer, 42; Sir Nicholas Henderson, former diplomat, 80; the Earl of Ilchester, 79; Baroness McFarlane of Llandaff, 73; Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, former High Court judge, 73; Mr John Murdoch, director, Courtauld Gallery, 54; Professor Sir Dimitri Obolensky, FBA, Russian and Balkan historian, 81; Mrs Marie Patterson, trade unionist, 65; Mr Charles H. Price II, American diplomat, 68; Mr Steve Race, musician and broadcaster, 78; Dr R.C. Repp, Master, St Cross College, Oxford, 63; Miss Sheila Whitaker, former director, London Film Festival, 63; Professor Sir Dillwyn Williams, former President, Royal College of Pathologists, 70.

Dinners

Army Board
General Dharmapal Barsingh Thapa, Chief of Army Staff, Royal Nepalese Army, was the guest of honour at an Army Board dinner held last night in the State Apartments, Royal Hospital Chelsea. General Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, was the host. Among others present were:

Mrs Kabita Thapa, Lady Wheeler, Mr and Mrs Roger Jackling, General Sir Alex and Lady Harley, General Sir Michael and Lady Walker, General Sir Sam and Lady Cowan, General Sir Brian and Lady Kenny, Lieutenant-General Sir Peter and Lady Duffell, Lieutenant-General Sir Scott and Lady Grant, Major-General and Mrs David Jenkins, Major-General and Mrs Kevin O'Donoghue, Major-General and Mrs Tony Pigott, Major-General Pyar Jung Thapa, Colonel Mark Dowdle, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Indra Bahadur Karki and Mr Prahlad Kumar Prasai.

English-Speaking Union
Professor Duncan Robinson, Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, was the guest of honour and speaker at the closing dinner of the British Airways ESU 1999 cultural seminar held last night at Pembroke College, Cambridge. Baroness Brigstocke, chairman of the ESU, presided.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS:
William Harvey, physician, discoverer of the circulation of blood, Folkestone, 1578; Prince Otto von Bismarck, Chancellor of Germany 1871-90, Schonhausen, 1815; Sir Truby King, pioneer of mothercraft, New Plymouth, New Zealand, 1858; Lon Chaney, actor, Colorado Springs, California, 1883; Dame Cicely Courtneidge, actress, Sydney, New South Wales, 1893.

DEATHS:
Ferenc Molnar, dramatist, New York, 1952; Max Ernst, Surrealist painter and sculptor, Paris, 1976; Marvin Gaye, singer, shot by his father, Los Angeles, 1984.

The Territorial Army, a force of volunteer soldiers mainly for home defence, was formed in Britain, 1908.

The RAF was formed, absorbing the Royal Flying Corps, 1918.

Luncheon

Carlton Club
The Hon Francis Maude, Shadow Chancellor, was the principal guest and speaker at a Carlton Club Political Committee luncheon held yesterday at the club. Mr Damian Green, MP, vice-chairman, presided.

Ambassador

Mr Charlie Mochan to be Ambassador to Madagascar from July in succession to Mr Bob Dewer who will be transferring to a new appointment in the Diplomatic Service.

RICHARD CANNON

THE largest known collection of material relating to the First World War cartoon character *Old Bill* fetched £25,300 at Onslow's auctioneers in London yesterday. Among the hundreds of items were original ink drawings, car mascots and cloth dolls of the irreverent Tommy who was the creation of the war artist Captain Bruce Bairnsfather. A family photograph album which included images of Bairnsfather in the trenches was bought by the National Army Museum for £1,000, and £2,600 was paid for a William Barribal portrait of him, shown above flanked by two of Bairnsfather's creations.

Bairnsfather invented Old Bill after observing the ever-present humour of his stoical army comrades who pinned up his drawings in their dugouts to provide light relief from the grim reality of war. Old Bill became a household name after first appearing in *The Bystander* magazine in January 1915. One of the most enduring images features the tin-helmeted soldier in a muddy trench uttering the words: "If yer knows of a better 'ole, go to it!"

Church services for Good Friday

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 10.30 Liturgy, Canon D Lee; 12 Three hour devotion, Dr M Taylor; 6 Ch E, Short service (Hunt).

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 11.00 Litany, Ante-Communion and Veneration of the Cross; 5.45 E, Short Service (Patrick), A: Crucifixus etiam pro nobis (Antonio Lotti); 8 Devotional Concert.

BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL: 11.30 Ch Mass, Crucifixus (Lotti), Christus factus est (Bruckner).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 8.40 M; 10.30 Liturgy; 12 Three hour devotion; 3.30 EP.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 9.30 Liturgy of the Cross, Lamentation (Bairstow); 12 Three hour devotion; 5.30 E, Ecce quomodo moritur justus (Handel); 7.30 Requiem (Fauré).

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 12 Meditation; 1.15 Organ music; 1.30 Liturgy, St John Passion (Victoria).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 12 Reading of St Matthew's Gospel; 5.15 EP; 7.45 Liturgy and Communion, The Reproaches (Victoria), Rev K Hacker Hughes.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M; 12 Churches Together in Chichester service, Rt Rev J B Taylor; 5.30 E; 6 Liturgy.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, The Passion according to St John (Victoria); 6 E, Fauxbourdon (Morley).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 12 Three hours of the Cross; 6.30 E, Patrick in G minor; 7 Organ meditations on the Stations of the Cross.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP & Litany; 12 Three hour devotion; 12 Liturgy, A: Drop drop slow tears (Gibbons), Canon D Whittington; 2 Commemoration of Passion of Jesus Christ; 5.15 EP; 6.15 Churches Together in Durham service, Rev A White.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 10.15 Procession of Witness; 12 Liturgy, The Passion according to St John (Vittoria), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Canon D Green; 3 The way of the Cross; 5.30 E, Service in the Dorian mode (Tallis), Consider all ye passers by (Amner).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 10 M, Liturgy & Ante Communion; 12 Three hour devotion; 5.30 E, Second service (Tomkins); 7.30 Passiontide music & readings.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 M & Litany; 9.30 Service for children and families; 10.30 Ecumenical Act of Witness; 12 Three hour devotion; 1.30 Liturgy, Crux fidelis (Anerio); 5.30 E, Short service (Tallis).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Ante Communion; 10.30 Family service; 11.30 United service of Witness; 12 Three hour devotion; 5.30 EP; 7 Stainer's Crucifixion.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 9.30 Litany & Ante Communion, The Lamentation (Bairstow); 12 Three hour devotion; 3.15 Hymns in the nave; 5.15 E, Salvator mundi (Tallis).

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 9 Stations of the Cross; 10.15 Liturgy, Lamentation (Bairstow); 12 Devotion, Canon N H Collins; 6 E, Fauxbourdons (Byrd).

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 9.45 M; 10 Euch; 12 The way of the Cross; 3.30 EP; 7.30 Music and readings.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 1.30 Meditation in readings and music, A: My song is love unknown (Archer); 6.30 Liturgy.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 Procession of witness; 12 The Liturgy; 7.30 Choir concert.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M & Litany, In the departure of the Lord (Bull); 12 Three hour devotion, Canon R McFadden; 3 Liturgy; 5.30 E; 7.30 Devotional concert.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 9.30 MP; 12 Preaching of the Passion, Very Rev A Warren; 2 Liturgy.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Litany; 11.15 Churches Together in Salisbury; 12 Three hour devotion; 4 Service for children; 5.30 Liturgy.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 10 Liturgy; 12 Three hour devotion; 5.45 EP; 7.30 S devotion.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 8.30 MP; 9.30 Stations of the Cross; 10.30 Liturgy of the Cross; 12 Three hour devotion, Ven G Ogilvie; 5.45 E, A: Drop drop slow tears (Walton).

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 9 M; 10 Liturgy; 11.30 United service in High Cross; 12 Three hour devotion; 5.30 E, Fauxbourdons (Byrd).

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Ecumenical Service; 12 Three hour devotion, Bishop of Pontefract; 7.30 Liturgy, St John Passion (Victoria), The Reproaches (Sanders), Canon R Capper.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 10.30 M & Litany in St Margaret's Church; 12 S Liturgy, Passion according to St John (Victoria); 2 The last hour, Rev Dr A Harvey; 3 E, Farrant in A minor.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 10 Readings; 3 Solemn celebration of the Lord's Passion, Christus factus est (Bruckner), The passion according to St John (Byrd); 12 Sung Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross; 1.15 Meditation; 2 The Last Hour; 3 Evensong.

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL: 9.30 Children's service & M; 12 Three hour devotion, Canon P Kerr; 5.30 EP.

YORK MINSTER: 10 M, Litany & Ante Communion, The Lamentation (Bairstow); 12 Three hour devotion; 4 E, Fauxbourdons (Morley); 7.30 United Act of Worship of York Council of Churches, Colonel P Needham.

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL: 8.30 MP; 12 Preaching of the Passion, Sister M C Boulding; 5 EP; 8 Unity at the cross.

ST ASAPH: 10.30 HC; 12 Three hour devotion; 2 Liturgy.

ST DAVID'S CATHEDRAL: 7.45 MP; 10 Family service; 12 Three hour devotion; 6 EP.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, E15: 12 Around the Cross.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL: 11, 8 Adoramus te (Lassus).

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 10 M and Litany, The Lamentation (Bairstow), Miserere (Allegri); 12 Three hour devotion, Rt Rev R Williams; 5 Liturgy, A: Ecce lignum crucis (Chapple), Rev M Johnson.

ST WOOLOS CATHEDRAL, Newport: 12 Three hour devotion; 7 Choir concert.

ALL SAINTS VICARAGE, W1: 9 MP; 12 Preaching of the Passion, Canon J Robertson; 1 Sol Liturgy; 6 EP.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place: 10 Family service, Rev R Trist; 12 Service of meditation, Prebendary R Bewes.

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION AND ST GREGORY, W1: 3 popule meus (Victoria), Improperium (Lassus).

CROWN COURT OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11 Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 3 Gospel, Christus factus est (Bruckner).

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON: 12 Meditation and music, Rev S Millar.

ST ALBAN THE MARTYR, EC1: 12 Stations of the Cross; 1.15 Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Miserere (Allegri).

WESLEY'S CHAPEL: 12 Meditations of the Passion.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL: 11.45 Procession.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT: 12 Sol Liturgy, A: Christus factus est (Anerio), Dr M R Dudley.

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH, EC4: 11 Pergolesi's Stabat Mater; 12 Three hour devotion, Dr C Cunliffe; 12; 2 At the foot of the Cross; 1 Stainer's Crucifixion.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Liturgy, St John Passion (Victoria).

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11 Rev Easter Smart.

ST ETHELREDA'S, EC1: 3 Liturgy, Christus Factus est, (Bruckner), St John Passion (Victoria).

ST GEORGE, Hanover Square, W1: 10 Litany and Ante-Communion; 2.30 Vespers and Passion according to St Matthew (Bach).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL: 8 Stations of the Cross; 10 Children's Stations; 3 Sol Liturgy of the Passion; 7.30 Service around the Cross.

ST JAMES'S CHURCH, W1: 12 Three Hour Service, Canon J Millard.

ST MARK'S, NW1: 11 Liturgy, The Passion of our Lord (Victoria), Ecce quomodo (Handel), Rev A Andrews.

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH: 10.30 Ch M, Rev Dr P Bradshaw.

ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS: 10 Devotion; 12 Three hour devotion, The Bishop of London.

ST MARY ABBOTS, W8: 9.30 MS; 6 EP, Rev T Thornton.

MARYLEBONE CHURCH, NW1: 11 Service of meditation; 6.30 Stainer's Crucifixion.

ST ANNE & ST AGNES, Gresham Street, EC2: 11 Liturgy with St Matthew Passion.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill: 1 An hour's meditation, Rev P Mullen.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 11 Liturgy, St John Passion (Ridgley- Whitehouse), Improperia (Victoria).

ST PETER AD VINCULA AND ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, HM Tower of London: 7 Devotional Service, Rev D MacKenzie.

HAMPTON COURT PALACE: 11 Ante Communion and reading of the passion, Missa in simplicitate (Langlais).

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace, SW1: 8.30 HC; 12 Litany (Tallis), Passion according to St John (Victoria), The Dean of Westminster.

THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Lamentations (Bairstow).

THE GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Passion of our Lord according to St John (Bach).

Easter Sunday services will be in Weekend

Queen's Counsel

The Queen has approved the appointment of three Queen's Counsel *honoris causa* and 69 new Queen's Counsel. The full list is given below:

Queen's Counsel *honoris causa*
Brian Elseley Cleave
Professor Donald Neil MacCormick, FBA
Sir Leon Radzinowicz, FBA

Queen's Counsel
D I H Tyzack (I), A M Davies (G), H C Grunwald (G), F H Panford (M), D E B Waters (M), O H Davies (I), Ms S P FitzGerald (I), P A Thomas (G), R W S Juckes (I), R Wigglesworth (G), Ms A M Page (M), A P Russell (M), Ms E-A Gumbel (I), N R W Lambert (G), C F Sharp (I), J P Corbett (I), C A F Howard (I), D Lloyd Jones (M), R L Marks (G), J A D Wood (M), A D Conrad (M), M M Wood (M), N D Jones (G), C A Kinch (L), M I Wolkind (M), J V Cousins (M), H W A Palmer (I), B C Forster (L), C A Haddon-Cave (G), C S Hollander (G), D R Lewis (M), M P H Pooles (I), C J Greenwood (M), A J Leonard (I), G F McDermott (M), R G Spencer (G), Mrs S F Bradley (L), P G Hackett (M), S R Auld (G), W R Davies (M), M J Kelly (G), D N Berkley (M), R F Hollington (L), J R Baker (M), Miss E W Hamilton (I), Ms E A Marsh (G), M G Massih (M), P J Walker (I), S R Wildblood (I), P N Hinchliffe (M), Miss E V E Sharpston (M), A J Simmonds (M), P D Wright (I), Miss A G Weekes (G), I A Mill (M), M J Booth (L), R SJ Knowles (M), M R McManus (M), C A M Katkowski (G), Ms K M Thirlwall (M), P A Darling (M), N J Braslavsky (I), H M Malek (G), A G Schaff (I), M P Phillips (I), D W K Anderson (M), S Moriarty (M), B E Doctor (L), M G Clough (S).

Key: L: Lincoln's Inn; I: Inner Temple; M: Middle Temple; G: Gray's Inn; S: Solicitors.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.R.T. McDonald and Miss G.F.M.P. Eaton-Platt
The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and Mrs John McDonald, of Dublin, Ireland, and Gabriella, only daughter of Sir Harold and Lady Platt, of Kampala, Uganda.

Mr I.R.C. Maxwell and Miss T.L. Dudley Smith
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of the late Mr Robert Maxwell and of Dr Elisabeth Maxwell, of Belgravia, London, and Tara, daughter of Mr Alwyn Dudley Smith, of Thornton Dale, North Yorkshire, and Mrs Susan Gilmour, of East Garston, Hungerford, Berkshire.

Mr J.G. Wiggin and Miss K.P. Lascelles
The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of the late George Wiggin and of the Hon Mrs Smith-Bingham, of Bagnor, Berkshire, and Karine, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs Raymond Lascelles, of Clapham, London.

Mr D.C. Wright and Miss S.J. Saywell
The engagement is announced between David, son of Paul and Jane Wright, of Saffron Walden, and Susannah, elder daughter of Victor and Rosemary Saywell, of Cottenham, Cambridgeshire.

Captain T.T. Youngman Sullivan and Miss L.G. Ingrey-Senn
The engagement is announced between Captain Thorold Youngman Sullivan, Grenadier Guards, only son of Mr and Mrs P.M. Sullivan, of Merton Park, London, and Louisa, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A.C. Ingrey-Senn, of Odell, Bedfordshire.

Church news

The Rev Geoffrey Holness, permission to officiate (Chichester): to be Priest-in-Charge, Southwick St Peter and St Mary (same diocese).

The Rev Janet House, Curate, Swindon Christ Church (Bristol): to be Vicar, Ronkswood Holy Trinity and St Matthew within the Worcester South East Team (Worcester).

The Rev Pamela Ingham, Curate, Newcastle Epiphany (Newcastle): to be Curate, Fawdon St Mary (same diocese).

The Rev David Irvine, Curate, Hexham (Newcastle): to be Priest-in-Charge, Blanchland w. Hunstanworth and Edmundbyers and Muggleswick, and Slaley (same diocese).

The Rev Janet Jackson, Honorary Curate, Whorlton, and part-time Chaplain, St Oswald's Hospice (Newcastle): has been appointed Chaplain, St Oswald's Hospice (same diocese).

The Rev Jeremy James, Curate, Hailsham (Chichester): to be Vicar, Wadhurst and Tidebrook, and Priest-in-Charge, Stonegate (same diocese).

Canon Bob Langley, Diocesan Missioner, and Canon Residentiary, Newcastle Cathedral (Newcastle): has been appointed Director of Ministry and Training, remaining as Canon Residentiary (same diocese).

The Rev Joseph Lee, formerly a priest in the Roman Catholic Church: has been appointed Honorary Curate, Charlton St Luke w. Holy Trinity (Southwark).

The Rev Clive Morton, formerly Vicar, Birmingham St Peter (Birmingham): has been appointed Priest-in-Charge, Moscow St Andrew (Europe).

The Rev Liz Naylor, Assistant Chaplain, Southampton University Hospital NHS Trust (Winchester): to be Chaplain, same hospital.

The Rev David Palmer, Priest-in-Charge, Seaton Hirst Team Ministry (Newcastle): has been appointed Team Rector, same benefice.

The Right Rev William Pwaisiho, Curate, Sale St Anne (Chester): to be Rector, Gawsworth (same diocese).

The Rev David Randolph-Horn, Secretary, Inner Cities Religious Council: to be Associate Director, Leeds Church Institute, and NSM (House for Duty) Priest-in-Charge, Heptonstall St Thomas a Becket and St Thomas the Apostle (Wakefield).

The Rev James Robertson, Vicar, Monkseaton St Peter (Newcastle): to be also Rural Dean of Tynemouth (same diocese).

The Rev Peter Robinson, Vicar, South Ramsey St Paul, and Bishop's Officer for Continuing Ministerial Education and Adult Education (Sodor & Man): to be Priest-in-Charge, Goostrey, and Diocesan Director of Ordinands (Chester).

The Rev Brian Statham, Team Vicar, Horsham, and Chaplain, Horsham General Hospital (Chichester): to be Team Vicar, The Chester Team with special responsibility for St Thomas of Canterbury (Chester).

The Rev Peter Stoodley, Priest-in-Charge, Osmondthorpe St Philip (Ripon): to be Vicar, Sowerby Bridge w. Norland (Wakefield).

The Rev Andrew Tyler, Priest-in-Charge, Norwich St Giles (Norwich): to be Priest-in-Charge, Norwich St Mary- Magdalene (same diocese).

The Rev John Wardle, Vicar Choral, Southwell Minster, and Diocesan Adviser on Healing (Southwell): to be Priest-in-Charge, Bridlington St Mary's Priory Church (York).

The Rev Niall Weir, Vicar, Forest Gate Emmanuel w. Upton Cross (Chelmsford): to be Assistant Chaplain, Southampton University Hospital NHS Trust (Winchester).

The Ven Lionel Whatley, from South Africa: has been appointed Rector, Ashington, Washington and Wiston w. Buncton (Chichester).

The Rev Brian Wheelhouse, Curate, Brighton the Resurrection (Chichester): to be Curate, Hangleton (same diocese).

The Rev Kit Widdows, Master, Newcastle St Thomas Proprietary Chapel (Newcastle): to be also Priest-in-Charge, Fawdon St Mary (same diocese).

Retirements and resignations

The Rev Bryan Armitage, Vicar, Weaverthorpe w Helperthorpe, Luttons Ambo and Kirby Grindalythe w Wharram (York) to retire April 30.

The Rev David Bond, Rector, Northiam (Chichester) retired February 1.

The Rev Peter Dawson, Priest-in-Charge, Sleekburn (Newcastle) to retire April 30.

The Rev John Hallatt, Vicar, Monkseaton St Mary (Newcastle) retired January 31.

ROY HOWARD

Roy Howard, DFM, wartime glider pilot, died on March 22 aged 76. He was born on August 28, 1922.

As part of what was perhaps the most spectacular airborne action of the war on either side, Staff Sergeant Roy Howard piloted a Horsa glider which landed in Normandy just after midnight on D-Day and spearheaded the capture of the Ranville Bridge over the River Orne.

In the annals of the Normandy glider operations, historians have concentrated almost exclusively on the capture of the Pegasus Bridge over the Caen Canal, which lies 200 yards to the west of the River Orne. Indeed, photographs of the steel girders of the canal bridge have become part of the iconography of D-Day. And the name of the overall commander of the operation, Major John Howard, is also part of the D-Day story.

But without the simultaneous capture of the bridge over the Orne, which runs parallel to the canal, the operation would have been pointless. Both bridges had to be captured intact, since the road they carried would be the only supply line from Sword Beach to the 6th Airborne Division, which was to land east of Caen and protect the left flank of the entire Allied invasion force. It was an airborne assault which required pinpoint accuracy of flying, against all odds of bad weather and low cloud.

Roy Howard's mission had begun the previous evening in Dorset, when his Horsa glider, carrying 28 heavily armed men of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, moved out across the airfield at Tarrant Rushton behind the four-engined Halifax bomber which was to act as the towing aircraft. It was one of a force of six. The first three gliders to get airborne were destined for the Pegasus Bridge. Of the three bound for the River Orne, Howard's was the last.

He had been studying his landing ground from a precise scale model for the past three days, and well knew the difficulty of his mission. He had to clear a belt of 50ft trees with his heavy glider and its precious cargo, and get safely down and come to a halt on a small area of rough pasture without smashing into the 14ft road embankment at the other end.

After a flight in which thick cloud made it difficult for the gliders to keep station on their towing tugs flying 275ft ahead, Howard's glider was released just before midnight, three miles short of the French coast. The Halifaxes had come in at 6,000 feet to delude the German radars and observer corps into thinking that this was just another bombing raid on Caen. This height had to be lost in little more than five miles, which meant a perilously steep angle of descent for the heavily laden Horsa.

As it transpired, losing height was not to be a problem. Howard felt his glider dropping like a barely streamlined brick, confirming his previous suspicion that his enthusiastic passengers had loaded themselves with far more than the regulation ration of ammunition and grenades. In the nick of time he yelled to two of the soldiers crouched behind him to go to the back of the aircraft, so improving its trim and arresting the well-nigh suicidal plunge.

Suddenly, out of the darkness, Howard picked out the silvery gleam of the Caen Canal and the River Orne ahead and below him. Seconds later he was skimming over the belt of trees, deploying the parachute brakes and miraculously touching down in one piece. Intelligence had been perfect — except for the minor detail of a herd of cows which were slumbering on the pastureland. Stampeding as the glider clattered and screeched its way noisily to earth, one of these knocked the Horsa's nosewheel off.

Howard's Horsa was the only one of the three scheduled for the Orne bridge attack to land in the right place. The second had landed in a field 400 yards back, and the first to take off had, through a navigational error from the towing Halifax, landed on the River Dives, ten miles to the east. The Orne force was therefore down to a third of its strength. But what the Ox and Bucks men lacked in numbers they made up for in the sheer savagery of their assault on the bridge. They had landed at 0016 hrs. By 0026 both objectives were in British hands, all three gliders having landed at the Pegasus Bridge.

The impact of this small-scale operation was incalculable. Thereafter, for the German forces all movement between the east and west banks of the Orne had to be via Caen — a six-hour detour. For his brilliant effort, Howard, one of the first Allied troops into France on D-Day, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.

Roy Howard was born in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, the son of a police sergeant. He had suffered badly from asthma in his youth and after leaving Westcliff High School at first worked locally and served in the Home Guard. In 1942 he was called up into the Army, going to the Royal Corps of Signals after basic infantry training. For six months he served at the Army's Y Service station, intercepting German signal traffic for analysis at Bletchley Park.

But he found this work tedious and in October that year he volunteered for the newly formed Glider Pilot Regiment. From the spring of 1944 onwards he and a group of fellow pilots were in intensive training for landings at night in small, enclosed spaces. However, it was not until three days before D-Day that the glider pilots were told the precise nature of their mission.

For the attack itself, Howard became an infantryman as soon as the glider had touched down, supporting the assault and bringing up ammunition. But when it was over he was required to get himself back to Britain as soon as he could, to be available for further glider operations. Making his way to Sword Beach he found a landing craft to take him out to a warship, and was back at his base by June 8.

In September 1944 Howard took off as part of Operation Market Garden, Montgomery's attempt to capture the bridge at Arnhem. On that occasion his towing aircraft developed an engine fault and had to return to base. But in March 1945 he was again in action, carrying glider-borne infantry into battle as part of the assault crossing of the Rhine.

Returning to civilian life in 1946, Howard worked first for a local radio firm, then on computer stationery for Waddington and from the mid-1960s for the British Printing Corporation as a sales manager. When the company was taken over he worked briefly on the sales side of a local newspaper and in 1979 went to HM Stationery Office, finally retiring in 1983.

In his leisure hours he enjoyed rallying with the Thames Estuary Automobile Club and, when road rallying became impossible owing to the increase of traffic on public roads, was an active member of the Benfleet Yacht Club. He was also Quartermaster of the Glider Pilots Regimental Association.

He is survived by his wife Pamela, and by two sons, one of whom is secretary-general of the Glider Pilots Regimental Association.

LUCIEN AIGNER

Lucien Aigner, photojournalist, died on March 29 aged 97. He was born in Hungary on September 14, 1901.

LIBERATED by the Leica, Lucien Aigner snatched photographs of many of the leading figures of the century: Churchill, Roosevelt, Gandhi, a smirking Hitler. He was among the pioneers of photojournalism, along with Henri Cartier-Bresson and Robert Capa, and used the 35mm camera to produce a newly candid view of the great. But he also froze the fleetness of unknown lives — a French couple dancing in the street, a girl turning with a smile of joy as she runs a race.

His pictures were deliberately informal, with the arbitrary framing, unsteady horizons and blurriness that are now highly fashionable.

Ladislaz Aigner was born in a part of Hungary now in Czechoslovakia, and was educated at the Universities of Prague and Budapest. He began working as a journalist, and his photography began as a means of telling stories more fully. He spent most of the 1930s as a freelance in Paris, contributing packages of text and pictures to French, German and English papers and magazines.

His picture of Mussolini in profile, clutching his nose, seemed too unguarded to publish when it was taken in 1935, when Britain was trying to dissuade him from an alliance with Hitler, but in 1941 *Newsweek* used it as a cover, with the caption "Il Duce defies democracy".

In 1938 Aigner fled Paris, making his way to New York and forced to leave 50,000 negatives in a suitcase at his sister's flat. "We had space to take either the baby carriage or my photo history," he said, "so we took the baby carriage." But his brother, Etienne Aigner, the fashion designer, eventually retrieved the negatives after the German occupation.



Aigner looking back over some of his most famous pictures after his rediscovery

In America, Aigner's scope was restricted during the war — he was not naturalised until 1945 — but he was still able to photograph the travails and triumphs of non-military life. In 1941 he photographed a crumpled and quizzical Einstein, deep in thought before his blackboard at Princeton. Einstein thought it the best picture ever taken of him, and sent Aigner an appreciative rhyme in German.

In 1947 Aigner took a job in the Hungarian section of the Voice of America, writing, producing and announcing, but in 1954, under the shadow of McCarthyism, he moved to the Berkshires in Massachusetts, and began working as a commercial portrait and studio photographer.

Then, in 1970, he retrieved the battered old suitcase from under his enlarger, and began to sort through negatives that were now of historical interest. Archivists and galleries began to rediscover him, and in 1980 an exhibition of his photographs of Bastille Day in Paris in the Thirties was held in New York. Visitors found the style strikingly up-to-date, even though the pictures recorded a way of life gone for ever, with thousands of people at tables lining the grand boulevards.

He was twice married, and is survived by two sons and two daughters.

RICHARD HARRIS

Richard Harris, former Deputy Foreign Editor of *The Times*, died yesterday aged 84. He was born on November 14, 1914.

IN THE days when anonymity was still the rule on *The Times* Richard Harris was one of the select few who was allowed a distinguishing nom de guerre. Writing as "Student of Asia" he made it his task to dispel myths and prejudices. Asia, he would point out, was a term of European invention. To generalise about the continent was certain to mislead. It was full of diversity. There was, for example, more difference between Delhi and Peking than between London and Cairo.

The message Harris preached — not an easy one when the war in Vietnam was raging — was that a sharp distinction must be drawn between East Asia and the rest. "East Asia has a unity the rest lacks. In South Asia Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist cultures exist like a layer cake; only in East Asia has a continuous growth evolved a powerfully knit set of ideas common to all its constituent parts." East Asia, he insisted, means essentially a civilisation comparable to the civilisation of Europe, and he believed that the major confrontation of our century would prove not to be between rich and poor nations or black and white, but between East Asia and the rest of the world.

Richard Frederick James Harris was born in the backwoods of the Shantung province of China, where his parents were missionaries. When he was sent to school at the age of seven, his spoken Chinese was more fluent than his English and though the mission school which he attended (only reached after a long roundabout journey by train and boat) discouraged the use of Chinese, he never lost the ability to speak and read the language.

His parents came home on leave in 1928, and he was deposited at Taunton School, where he remained until the summer of 1932. Rather surprisingly he chose not to go to university, but his abiding interest in the arts, particularly architecture, was given scope when he got a job on the *Architectural Review*, becoming assistant to Jim (later Sir James) Richards.

He was called up into the Army in July 1940, the military authorities recognising his abilities sufficiently to turn him into an intelligence officer, though the places where he was sent to operate gave little recognition to his qualifications. Bristol sub area was followed by 15 months at Ninth Army headquarters in Lebanon, whence he was posted to Khartoum.

As the war drew to a close Harris at last moved eastwards, brief spells in Calcutta and Chungking preceding his demobilisation. Taken on by the information department of the Foreign Office, he was sent to Tianjin. He watched with absorbed interest but without surprise the Communists' successes in the expanding civil war and was a witness of their takeover in Shanghai.

Harris claimed that it was indignation at what he regarded as *The Times*'s total failure to understand what was going on in China that prompted him to apply for a job on the paper. But his application was turned down. He wrote to his old colleague, Jim Richards, then architectural correspondent of *The Times* — could he find out why? Richards's intercession worked and Harris was offered a staff appointment on the paper at about half his Foreign Office salary.

After three months training in London he was posted to Hong Kong, then the only convenient place from which events in China could be reported, though he did accompany the Labour Party mission into China in August 1954. In the same summer he covered the Geneva conference on Vietnam.

Harris was in Hong Kong for three years, followed by two years as correspondent in Singapore. In 1955 he was brought back to London to write leaders and special articles mainly — though by no means exclusively — on Asian subjects. He presented Asia as he saw it, not as something fabricated by Western perceptions. He was made Deputy Foreign Editor in 1967, a post which he retained until his retirement in 1979.

To the disappointment of his friends Harris never wrote the book they were hoping for. He produced a small volume, *Independence and After: Revolution in Underdeveloped Countries* in 1962, and in 1968, a valuable pamphlet, *America and East Asia: A New 30 Years War?* based on a series of articles which had appeared in *The Times* following one of his periodic visits to the Far East. But he was in great demand as a lecturer and broadcaster before and after his retirement.

He maintained his concern for good architecture by acting for many years as a judge in *The Times* environmental competition.

As a colleague Harris was held in much affection; he was a patient, witty, courteous and understanding companion. He married, in 1942, Rachel Sargant, who accompanied him after the war to the Far East and became a talented amateur artist. There were a son and daughter of this particularly happy marriage. All survive him.

VIRGINIA DURR

Virginia Durr, American social reformer and civil rights activist, died on February 24 in *Pennsylvania*, aged 95. She was born on August 6, 1903.

VIRGINIA DURR's 90th birthday party, at Martha's Vineyard, was reported in *The New Yorker*'s "Talk of the Town" under the insouciant heading "Old Terrorist". The distinguished guests included her son-in-law, Sheldon Hackney, the recently appointed head of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the novelist William Styron and the former First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson.

Born into the privileged ranks of Alabama's white aristocracy, Virginia Foster seemed destined for an uneventful life as a Southern belle. A series of experiences changed that. She spent two years at Wellesley College, where for the first time she encountered black students as equals; she worked among Birmingham's unemployed (and starving) iron and steel workers during the Depression, and married a young lawyer, Clifford Durr, in 1926.

All this pushed her into the ranks of New Deal liberals and reformers. When her husband joined the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and then the Federal Communications Commission, she embraced a variety of causes, notably the Woman's National Democratic Committee and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. She also became an executive vice-president of the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax.

An ebullient and attractive Washington figure, she befriended the young Jessica Mitford, who remembered that "she spoke in a sort of soft. scream . . . Her approach to conversation was that of the frontal attack". In *Hons and Rebels* and several of her essays, Mitford recounts her often hilarious experiences as a temporary member of the Durr household, where young children were instructed to "Keep quiet, you all, so Mother can talk to her company".

In 1948, Durr broke with the Democrats, supported the Progressive presidential campaign of Henry Wallace and was an unsuccessful candidate for the governorship of Virginia, while her husband worked for the Farmers' Union.

Eventually they moved back to Alabama, where Clifford attempted to establish a law practice. But they were less than enamoured of the mores and practices of a rigidly segregated society in the era of Joe McCarthy. In 1954 Virginia Durr appeared before a Senate sub-committee on communist influence.

She cultivated friendships with such key figures in Montgomery's African-American community as E. D. Nixon and Rosa Parks. Both were to be prime movers of the city's bus boycott, which launched the career of Martin Luther King Jr.

The Durrs' practical and legal support of the emerging civil rights movement left them ostracised, and there were reprisals by local whites. Nevertheless, Durr wrote several essays on the civil rights struggle, including a first-person account of the trial of a Ku Klux Klansman in Alabama.

To the delight and sometimes consternation of her friends, she remained to the end of her long life the soul of indiscretion, inveighing against those she regarded as sinners while canonising those she considered soulmates. Her monologues were filled with references to notable friends who had shared her attitudes to political, racial and social issues: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson, Martin and Coretta Scott King and Paul Robeson. She gave a further account of her friendships in an "oral autobiography", *Outside the Magic Circle* (1985).

She also appeared in *Eyes on the Prize*, a television series on the civil rights movement. Clifford Durr died in 1975. Virginia Durr is survived by four daughters.

ON THIS DAY

April 1, 1953

Queen Mary, Queen Consort of George V (1865-1936), died on March 24, aged 85. She spent the war in the country where she was punctilious in giving lifts to Service people; eventually the practice led her to giving them a disc inscribed "For Luck, MR".

BURIAL OF QUEEN MARY AT WINDSOR

From Our Special Correspondent

THOUGH the sorrow and the hope at the heart of the ceremonies were the same, and the same words of Christian valediction were spoken, the setting of Queen Mary's funeral contrasted with the sombre magnificence, that had surrounded the last journey of her son so short a while ago [George VI had died in 1952].

No drums and tramplings of marching troops escorted this gentle lady to the grave. Quietly, as one long withdrawn from the necessary pomps of state, she came home to Windsor: her body was not borne in procession through the castle wards, but had lain for several hours secluded in Prince Albert's Chapel behind the high altar, watched by the Military Knights of Windsor, before the mourners began to assemble.

Most of them paused to read some of the cards attached to the hundreds of wreaths and posies laid out on the lawns or leaning against the chapel walls. Splendid and sometimes beautiful as were the elaborate offerings from Governments, statesmen, and corporations, it

The dedication written on the notepaper of Princess Mary's Village Homes, to the Queen "from her *protégé*" followed by a girl's name, would have been less moving if the writer's mastery of French genders had been impeccable . . .

One scarcely knew precisely when the organ began to play; at one moment there was silence, and then delicate harmonies were stealing upon the ear, and before they had

side of the altar and were shown by one of the canons to their seats beside the purple catafalque. Not everybody can have realised at once that they were the Queen, the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and the Princess Royal . . .

Then after the Dean had read as a lesson the Apocalyptic promise of a world in which "there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying," there followed Queen Mary's own chosen Hymn, *Abide with me*. Its simple beauty has seldom seemed more heart-searching: the unaccompanied voices accurately reflected the mixed and changing thoughts of humanity in the presence of death, which are crystallised in its succeeding verses — awe and supplication, faith, triumph, and quiet acceptance. It seemed to catch in music the changing lights and shades still falling from the windows as the clouds drifted across the sun.

With the end of the hymn the Archbishop began the sentences of committal and the Queen quietly left her stall and stood alone beside the catafalque. The banner was not taken from the coffin, as it is sometimes taken in the last moments at royal funerals: and as the silent mechanism began to turn and the coffin slowly descended into the vault, the

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Milosevic has no place to hide

■ President Milosevic has been warned that all his military forces, wherever they are located in Yugoslavia, are now vulnerable to Nato air attacks. The decision to expand the target area and to increase the tempo of airstrikes was confirmed by General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. Spelling out the significance of the latest phase in Operation Allied Force, George Robertson said: "Nowhere in the whole Federal Republic of Yugoslavia can he (Mr Milosevic) expect to be immune from the attacks" .... Reports, pages 1-9

100,000 forced from homes in Pristina

■ President Milosevic's plans to drive every Kosovo Albanian from their homes came to a head as his security forces forced up to 100,000 people from Pristina, the region's capital, creating a traffic jam of buses stretching up to 60 miles from the border with Albania .... Page 3

11th-hour hope of Ulster breakthrough

■ Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern raised hopes of an eleventh-hour deal to break the deadlock over IRA disarmament by flying back to Northern Ireland for a third consecutive night of intensive talks. Government sources said that a deal to save the Good Friday accord was now "do-able" .... Pages 1, 16

Macpherson speaks

Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, the author of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report, answers his critics for the first time today and backs Sir Paul Condon's drive to reform the Metropolitan police .... Pages 1, 19

Police murder charge

A police marksman was last night charged with murder after an unarmed man was shot dead in a raid at his home more than a year ago. Four other Sussex police officers also face misconduct charges over their handling of the police raid .... Page 11

McDonald's blow

Two environmental campaigners who have waged a marathon legal battle against McDonald's claimed a victory when judges upheld their claim that eating too much of the restaurant's fast food could be unhealthy .... Page 13

Home harms career

The growing trend for university students to stay at home to study is wrecking the career prospects of thousands of graduates, a new study says .... Page 14

Star drank before fall

Derek Nimmo, the actor and radio personality who became renowned for his television role as a bumbling clergyman, drank champagne at the Garrick Club with a lifelong friend just hours before he was fatally injured falling down a flight of steps, an inquest heard .... Page 17

Degas could hit £7m

A pastel by Edgar Degas is to be sold in London for an expected £5-7 million, putting it in line to exceed the £6.6 million record for a work on paper set by a Van Gogh watercolour .... Page 18

Boys put off learning

Pressure on children to begin reading and writing by the age of five is breeding a generation of overstressed youngsters and turning boys off learning, primary school teachers claim .... Page 20

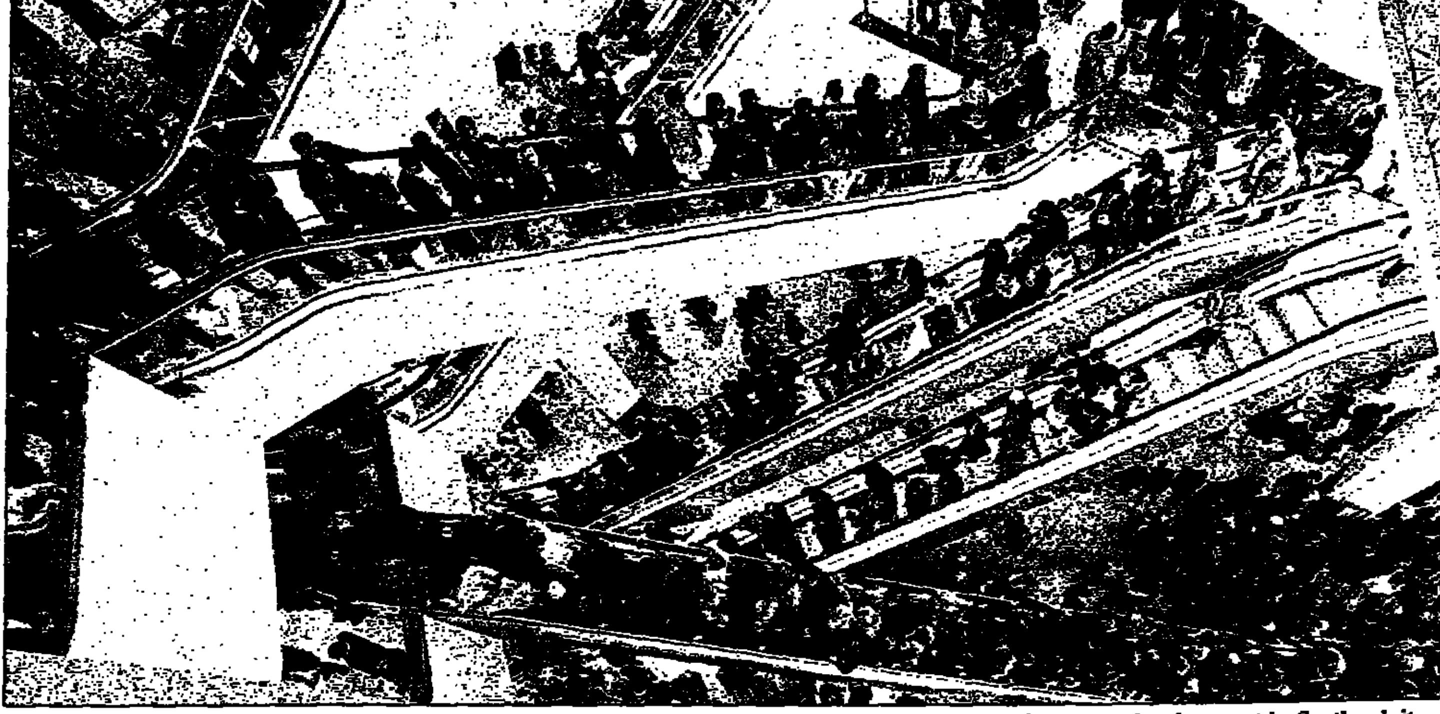
'Terminator' killed 52

Anatoli Onoprienko, one of the world's worst serial killers, has been convicted by a Ukrainian court on 52 charges of murder. He may receive the death sentence .... Page 21

Loss of coin toss is just not cricket

■ A coin toss will continue to determine the state of play in English cricket. First Class Forum, representing 18 first-class counties, had proposed reverting to the system used from 1774 and 1816 — giving the choice of batting or bowling to the visiting captain. But the plan was overruled by the England and Wales Cricket Board, who had the final say .... Page 13

PHOTO NEWS



Glasgow's £240 million Buchanan Galleries shopping complex opened yesterday. The biggest city centre development in Scotland, it features more than 80 stores, 2,000 car parking spaces and a 300-seat food court — and is expected to attract 500,000 shoppers weekly

BUSINESS

Rover deal: The future of Rover's Longbridge plant in Birmingham has been secured after the Government agreed a rescue package thought to be worth about £200 million .... Page 29

Exchange acts: The Stock Exchange has imposed fines on two of the City's biggest banks, alleging market misconduct .... Page 29

Pearson pay: Marjorie Scardino, the chief executive of Pearson, was paid more than £1 million last year after the information and publishing group met stiff performance targets .... Page 29

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 31.2 to 6295.3. The pound rose .02 cents to $1.6138 and 0.02p to 66.89p against the euro. The sterling index fell to 102.9 from 103.2 .... Page 32

SPORT

Athletics: Dougie Walker, the European 200 metres champion, was suspended after it was confirmed that he had a case to answer over a failed drugs test .... Page 56

Cricket: England called up Nasser Hussain to their World Cup squad last night as the replacement for Michael Atherton, who was forced to withdraw on Tuesday because of a back problem .... Page 53

Rugby union: John Mitchell, England's assistant coach, parted company with Sale after a month of speculation over his ability to continue as head coach .... Page 51

Rugby union: Ieuan Evans, the most-capped Wales player with 72 appearances, confirmed his retirement, two months ahead of schedule .... Page 51

ARTS

New movies: There are flashes of brilliance in *Tea With Mussolini*, Franco Zeffirelli's cinematic tribute to the English spinsters who raised him in Florence .... Page 38

Meeting Tyler: Liv Tyler, star of the new film *Plunkett and Macleane*, is a charming but ordinary seeming young woman blessed with an extraordinary life .... Page 39

New York blues: Neil Simon's biting play, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, is revived in the West End with Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason as the besieged Manhattanites .... Page 40

On location: Radio 3 sends a crew to Greece in search of authenticity in its dramatisation of *Fugitive Pieces*, Anne Michaels's prize-winning novel .... Page 41

FEATURES

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Aneurysms; prostate tests; the Prince of Wales and cancer care; E-coli outbreaks; breakfast eggs .... Page 22

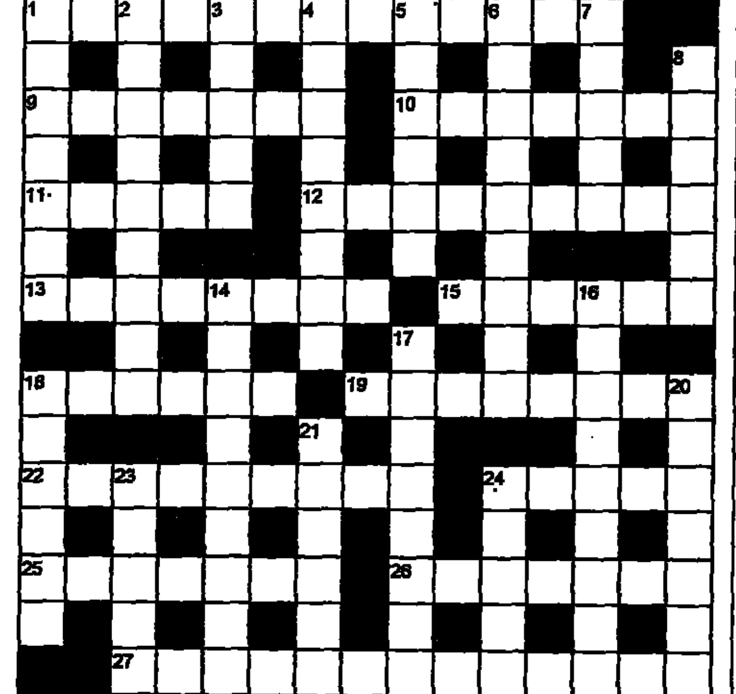
Young guns: How five children taught at home by their parents became mathematical prodigies. One 12-year-old is already at Warwick University .... Page 23

Speaking out: Scots women talk about motherhood and fashion in an oral history .... Page 23

Rock of ages: Salman Rushdie's return with a story about pop is music to the ears of Russell Celyn Jones; Julia Neuberger is starting to tire of books about Anne Frank; Claire Messud reviews Vikram Seth's new novel .... Pages 42-44

Best buys: A four-day tour of the castles, coast and mountains of Wales; a once-secret village on the Italian Riviera; Egypt .... Page 45

The 20th anniversary of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt passed quietly last week, with little enthusiasm expressed in either country. It is fitting, however, that as the Jewish people today celebrate their liberation from ancient Egypt, we recognise how much of our hopes for a more peaceful future remain founded in the breakthrough reached two decades ago.
The Jerusalem Post



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **EDUCATION**
Teenagers should not be pushed into going to university — some courses could harm their job prospects

■ **MEDIA**
Why genuine press freedom has failed to materialise in Russia since the break-up of the Soviet Union

RADIO & TV

Preview: *Naked Secrets* (ITV, 10pm) goes behind the scenes at a West London lap-dancing club. **Review:** Marriage as a publicity stunt? Joe Joseph examines just that .... Pages 54, 55

OPINION

The fog of war

The calculus of military advantage could now change quite rapidly. But if more aggressive tactics do not begin to make a dent on the killers in Kosovo within days, rather than weeks, the logic of this war will point increasingly to ground troops .... Page 25

Lords a' leaping

The parliamentary battle over the reform of the House of Lords has been not so much a damp squib but a thoroughly wet blanket .. Page 25

Hot, wet and healthy

Tea is good for the health. Drinking green tea is best of all. By inhibiting the growth of new blood vessels, a component of green tea can help to prevent cancers and blindness caused by diabetes .... Page 25

COLUMNS

ANATOLE KALETSKY

For the West to base its entire military and diplomatic strategy on the slim hope that the Serbs would behave "rationally" and turn against President Milosevic was almost frivolously irresponsible .... Page 24

ANGUS CALDER

SNP policy is to apply a full-scale economic blockade of the Serbs and to police the Rambouillet accord with United Nations rather than Nato troops. This policy might just conceivably have worked six months ago. It is surely unrealistic now .... Page 24

JAYNE DOWLE

It's got more jewellery than Joan Collins and has a façade easily as beautiful, though a little less well-maintained. But the British Museum lacks the ability to sell herself to new generations without sacrificing her mystery .... Page 24

OBITUARIES

Roy Howard, wartime glider pilot; **Lucien Aigner**, photojournalist; **Richard Harris**, foreign correspondent; **Virginia Durr**, American civil rights activist ...... Page 27

LETTERS

Female circumcision; atrocities in Kosovo; decommissioning arms in Ireland; changing hallmarks; ballooning record .... Page 25

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,066

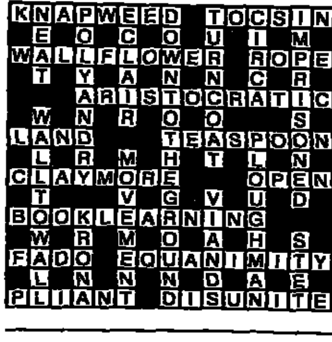
ACROSS

1 Enemy having been released from prison on many occasions (4,5,4).
9 Motorway investment is a blunder (7).
10 Very cold north is okay for bird (7).
11 Terminal connection is a beastly hole (5).
12 Unreasonable demand coming from oriental lord, erratically (4,5).
13 The reverse of skill with poetry makes one cross (8).
15 Bishop to be taken in by idiot who runs religious community? (6).
18 One looking after baby? It's very easy (6).
19 Spooner's Lady Fortune? Ineffective type (4,4).
22 Thwart poor actors beginning to try massive operatic work (9).
24 Like a wide vessel at sea, maybe (5).
25 Gentle group seen in publications (7).
26 Code of honour in wilderness, something revered mostly (7).
27 Bill set out unusually neat instruction on envelope (5,8).

DOWN

1 Storm created by English politician in trial (7).
2 Villain's crimes sorted out by diligent social worker (9).
3 Noah's final pair was taken aboard in flood (5).
4 Pleasant occasion is introduction to extremely formal work (8).
5 Tease a lord, being humorously rude (6).
6 International currency having difficulties (2,7).
7 Chaps brought in by paper boss to edit (5).
8 Tin god's temptations (6).
14 Current supply is brought by these carriers (9).
16 Cautioned about school activity (9).
17 Real mess one gets black in (8).
18 Plan school unit for printing article (6).
20 Yale's entrance requirement (7).
21 Such a lot of lies in the paper (6).
23 Simpleton at university found study hard (3,2).
24 Keep in what sounds like second-rate class (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,065



Times Two Crossword, page 56

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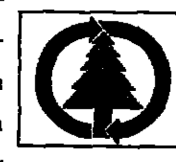
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HOURS OF DARKNESS



Sun rises: 6.37 am — Sun sets: 7.32 pm
Moon sets: 7.13 am — Moon rises: 8.07 pm
Last quarter April 9
London 7.32 pm to 6.34 am
Bristol 7.43 pm to 6.45 am
Edinburgh 7.50 pm to 6.42 am
Manchester 7.43 pm to 6.41 am
Penzance 7.53 pm to 6.58 am

WEATHER

☐ **General:** most of England and Wales will be warm with hazy sunshine. Southern and eastern coasts, however, will have fog and low cloud, keeping temperatures much lower. Sharp showers will slowly move into southwest England and southwest Wales later. Eastern parts of Northern Ireland and eastern Scotland will have cloud and patchy mist, but areas further west will be dry, mild and sunny.

☐ **London:** plenty of warm sunshine. Moderate SE wind. Max 22C (72F).

☐ **SE, Cent S England, E Midlands:** warm sunshine but misty and cool near coast. Wind moderate, SE. Max 21C (70F), cooler on coast.

☐ **E Anglia, E England:** long spells of warm sunshine. Wind moderate, SE. Max 20C (68F), cooler near coast.

☐ **W Midlands, N Wales, NW, Cent N England, Lakes, IoM:** warm. Wind moderate, SE. Max 21C (70F).

☐ **Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales:** dry morning, fog near some southern coasts. Sharp showers later. Wind moderate, SE. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** mainly dry with sunny spells, but isolated drizzle lingering into afternoon. Wind moderate, SE. Max 16C (61F), cooler near coast.

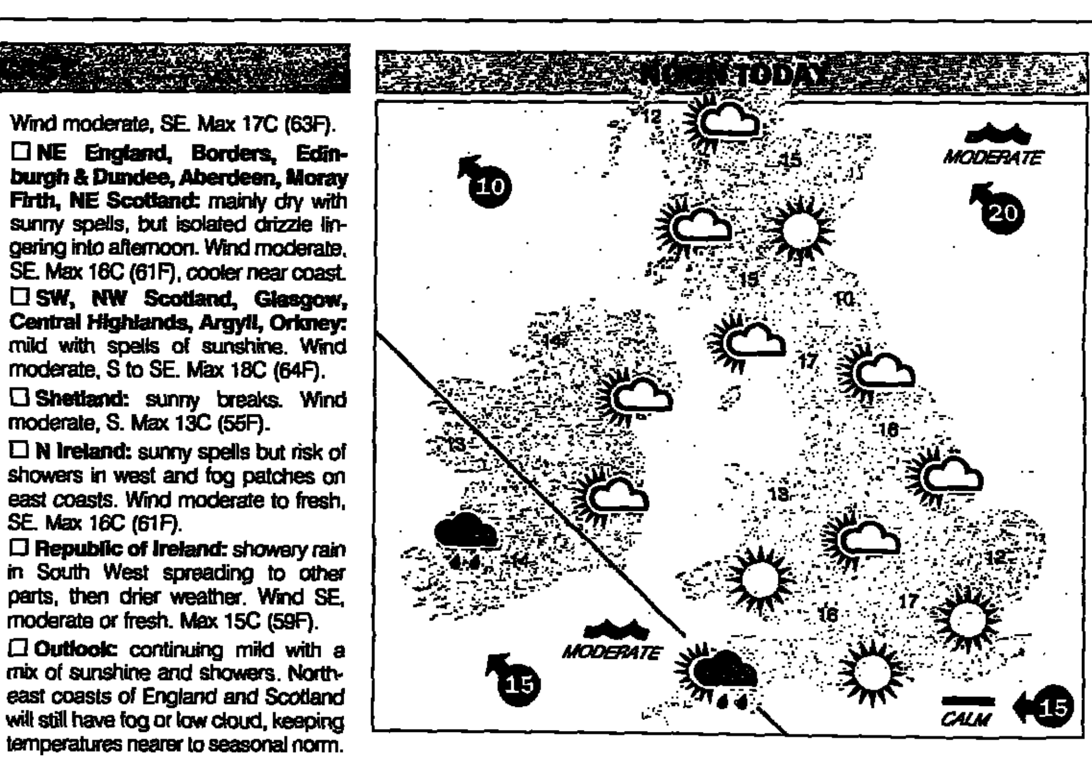
☐ **SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, Orkney:** mild with spells of sunshine. Wind moderate, S to SE. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Shetland:** sunny breaks. Wind moderate, S. Max 13C (55F).

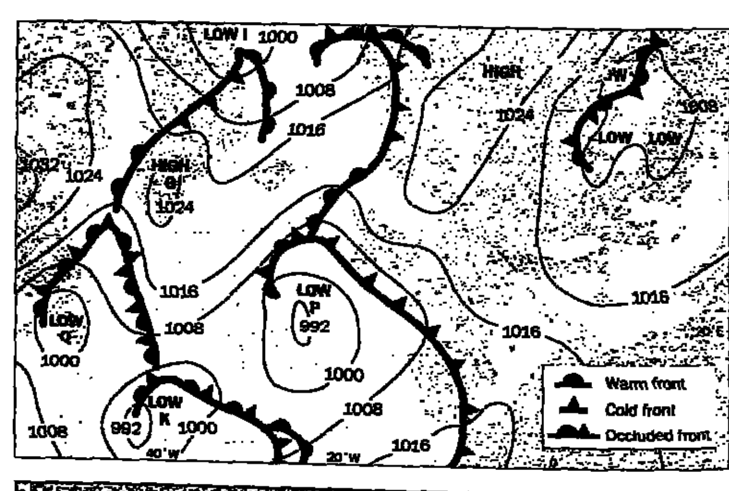
☐ **N Ireland:** sunny spells but risk of showers in west and fog patches on east coasts. Wind moderate to fresh, SE. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** showery rain in South West spreading to other parts, then drier weather. Wind SE, moderate or fresh. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Outlook:** continuing mild with a mix of sunshine and showers. North-east coasts of England and Scotland will still have fog or low cloud, keeping temperatures nearer to seasonal norm.



Changes to the chart below from noon: low P will be slow-moving, eventually being absorbed by low K; low Q will fill in situ; high G will extend eastwards



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright c=cloud, d=drizzle; ds=dust storm, du=dull, f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail, r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

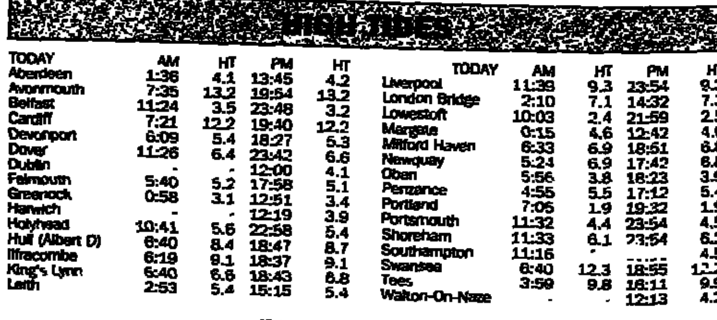
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.2	0.01	10	50	fg
Anglesey	3.1	0.08	15	59	d
Aspatria	2.9	0.01	15	59	r
Aviemore	4.3	0.02	13	56	c
Belfast	1.8	0.03	12	54	r
Birmingham	5.4	0.02	17	63	b
Bognor R	9.3	0.05	16	61	s
Bournemth	8.3	0.07	15	59	s
Bristol	7.6	-	18	64	s
Buxton	5.3	0.05	15	59	b
Cardiff	4.7	0.12	17	63	s
Clacton	10.4	0.01	11	52	s
Colwyn Bay	2.0	-	18	64	c
Cromer	9.0	0.01	19	66	s
Edinburgh	1.8	0.01	13	55	c
Eskdalemuir	0.7	0.06	9	48	r
Exmouth	6.3	0.06	13	55	s
Fishguard	3.6	0.04	15	59	d
Folkestone	7.7	-	18	64	s
Glasgow	1.2	0.02	12	54	r
Guernsey	8.2	0.01	18	64	s
Hastings	8.2	0.01	16	61	s
Hayling I.	8.2	0.04	15	59	s
Herne Bay	9.6	-	19	66	s
Hunstanton	8.4	-	19	66	s
Isle of Man	1.3	0.01	12	54	d
Isle of Wight	X	0.04	15	59	s
Jersey	9.1	0.01	19	66	s
Kinloss	3.7	-	14	57	c
Leeds	4.2	0.03	17	63	s
Lerwick	7.1	-	9	48	s
Leuchars	1.8	0.01	11	52	fg
Littlehampton	8.3	0.02	17	63	s
London	9.4	0.03	20	68	s
Lowestoft	8.4	0.01	14	57	s
Manchester	3.9	0.01	16	61	b
Margate	9.3	0.01	18	64	s
Morecambe	3.0	0.01	16	61	du
Newcastle	3.7	-	16	61	b
Norwich	8.1	0.01	19	66	s
Oxford	5.7	0.01	17	63	s
Penzance	8.4	0.01	14	57	s
Prestatyn	2.5	-	20	68	b
Ross on Wye	5.0	0.01	17	63	s
Shrewsbury	4.0	0.02	16	61	b
Skegness	9.0	-	19	66	s
Southport	X	-	X	X	b
Southsea	8.1	0.01	16	61	s
Stornoway	3.6	0.01	12	54	b
Swanage	8.0	0.08	13	55	s
Teignmouth	6.5	0.25	13	55	b
Tenby	3.2	0.07	13	55	s
Torquay	6.5	0.09	15	59	s
Weymouth	7.4	0.09	13	55	s

ABROAD

	C	F	
Ajaccio	15	59	s
Akrotiri	21	70	s
Alex'drie	22	72	s
Algiers	19	66	s
Amst'dm	13	55	d
Athens	12	54	r
Bahrain	26	79	f
Bangkok	34	93	f
Barbados	29	84	f
Barcelona	15	59	s
Beijing	11	52	c
Beirut	21	70	f
Belgrade	11	52	f
Berlin	14	57	s
Bermuda	21	70	s
Biarritz	20	68	s
Bordeaux	19	66	s
Brussels	16	61	s
Budapest	16	61	c
B Aires	22	72	f
Cairo	28	82	s
Cape Tn	37	99	s
Chicago	21	70	s
Ch'church	26	79	X
Cologne	16	61	s
C'phagn	9	48	s
Corfu	19	66	f
Dublin	11	52	c
Dubrovnik	17	63	c
Faro	20	68	s
Florence	17	63	r
Frankfurt	12	54	c
Funchal	19	66	f
Geneva	11	52	s
Gibraltar	18	64	s
Helsinki	8	46	s
Hong K	22	72	f
Innsbruck	12	54	f
Istanbul	10	50	f
Jeddah	34	93	f
Jo'burg	20	68	f
L Palmas	21	70	s
La Tquet	11	52	f
Lisbon	16	61	s
Locarno	17	63	s
L Angeles	X		
Luxembg	12	54	s
Luxor	39	102	s
Madrid	17	63	s
Majorca	17	63	s
Malaga	20	68	s
Malta	17	63	s
Melbourne	15	59	c
Mexico C	X		
Miami	X		
Milan	19	66	s
Montreal	X		
Moscow	13	55	s
Munich	9	48	c
Nairobi	25	77	c
Naples	17	63	f
N Delhi	24	75	s
N York	X		
Nice	16	61	s
Oslo	3	37	d
Paris	12	54	c
Perth	23	73	f
Prague	12	54	s
Reykjavik	-3	27	s
Rhodes	15	59	f
Rio de J	27	81	f
Riyadh	32	90	s
Rome	18	64	f
Salzburg	9	48	c
S Frisco	X		
Santiago	X		
S Paulo	X		
Seoul	15	59	s
Singapore	30	86	f
Stockholm	12	54	s
Strasb'rg	13	56	f
Sydney	23	73	f
Tangier	22	72	s
Tel Aviv	29	84	s
Tenerife	21	70	f
Tokyo	10	50	f
Toronto	X		
Tunis	17	63	f
Valencia	22	72	s
Vanc'ver	X		
Venice	15	59	f
Vienna	12	54	c
Warsaw	15	59	s
Wash'ton	X		
Wel'ngton	19	66	X

Temperatures at midday local time Tuesday X = not available

HIGH TIDES



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	1:36	4.1	13:45	4.2
Avonmouth	7:35	13.2	19:54	13.2
Belfast	11:24	3.5	23:48	3.2
Cardiff	7:21	12.2	19:40	12.2
Devonport	6:09	5.4	18:27	5.3
Dover	11:26	6.4	23:42	6.6
Dublin	-	-	12:00	4.1
Falmouth	5:40	5.2	17:58	5.1
Greenock	0:58	3.1	12:51	3.4
Harwich	-	-	12:19	3.9
Holyhead	10:41	5.6	22:58	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	6:40	8.4	18:47	8.7
Ilfracombe	6:19	9.1	18:37	9.1
King's Lynn	6:40	6.6	18:43	6.8
Leith	2:53	5.4	15:15	5.4
Liverpool	11:39	9.3	23:54	9.3
London Bridge	2:10	7.1	14:32	7.3
Lowestoft	10:03	2.4	21:59	2.5
Margate	0:15	4.6	12:42	4.6
Milford Haven	6:33	6.9	18:51	6.8
Newquay	5:24	6.9	17:42	6.8
Oban	5:56	3.8	18:23	3.9
Penzance	4:55	5.5	17:12	5.4
Portland	7:05	1.9	19:32	1.9
Portsmouth	11:32	4.4	23:54	4.5
Shoreham	11:33	6.1	23:54	6.2
Southampton	11:16	-	-	4.5
Swansea	6:40	12.3	18:55	12.2
Tees	3:59	9.8	16:11	9.9
Walton-On-Naze	-	-	12:13	4.2

All times GMT Heights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: highest day temp: London, 20C (68F); lowest day max: Inverbervie (Aberdeenshire), 8C (46F); most rain: Teignmouth (Devon), 0.25in; most sun: Clacton (Essex), 10.4hr.

Cher's tea with Mussolini
Arts, page 38

BUSINESS • ARTS • BOOKS • SPORT • TELEVISION

THE TIMES



Lara's finest hour
Sports, page 53

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY APRIL 1 1999

Aid worth £200m saves Rover car plant

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE FUTURE of Longbridge, Rover's giant car plant in Birmingham, was finally sealed yesterday after the UK Government agreed an aid package thought to be worth about £200 million.

The deal struck yesterday morning between Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, and Professor Joachim Milberg, chairman of Rover's German parent BMW, ends months of uncertainty for the plant, which employs 14,000. It came just a day after BMW said that it would go to Hungary for the production of a new Rover model unless the Government increased its aid offer within four weeks.

The Government's initial offer is thought to have been about £118 million while BMW had originally asked for nearly £250 million. BMW is now expected to honour a commitment made last year that £1.7 billion will be invested in Longbridge to enable the plant to build the new 200/400 series.

The deal, which is expected to be ratified at a BMW board meeting in Munich in two weeks' time, ensures 50,000 jobs in the West Midlands. Hundreds of companies in supplies and services as well as a large part of the local economy are dependent on the Longbridge plant.

The aid package, which will include regional assistance and cash from local authorities as well as money from the Treasury, is linked to productivity targets and to skills training. The money will be phased in as BMW meets those targets, which will be detailed by the company after its board meeting.

Mr Byers said yesterday: "Our objective has always been to secure the long-term future of Longbridge as a world-class plant. We believe this will achieve this."

BMW said: "We are pleased to announce that we have reached agreement in principle on the size and nature of a government aid package which will secure production of the new medium car at Longbridge".

Unions welcomed the deal, which comes five months after they thought they had saved the loss-making Longbridge through a ground-breaking pay and productivity deal. The plant's future was then thrown into doubt by a boardroom row at BMW which saw the exit of Longbridge's biggest supporter, Bernd Pischetsrieder, the chief executive.

Tony Woodley, chief car industry negotiator for the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "For the 14,000 Longbridge workers, tomorrow is the first day of a bright new future. While we have always been optimistic that a positive outcome would eventually emerge, it is an immense relief that the long hard days of purgatory are over."

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU, said: "This is excellent news for the Rover workforce, which has been through the mill in the past few months. I'm delighted the Government and BMW have concluded their discussions successfully." Roger Lyons, general secretary of the MSF, said: "We always had faith in the Government and BMW."

Some job losses at Longbridge are likely under plans to make the new Series 200/400 at the plant but they will be very small compared to those which would have been shed if BMW took the new model elsewhere. Last year the unions agreed to 2,500 job losses in the radical restructuring plan drafted to help Rover to close a 30 per cent productivity gap with German plants.

Commentary, page 31

Chronic ailment of an 'English Patient'

Christine Buckley

ROVER, dubbed "The English Patient" by impatient BMW shareholders, has swallowed nearly £4 billion in state cash since its first shaky steps as the British Leyland Motor Corporation (BLMC).

When BLMC was formed from the merger of Leyland Group and British Motor Holdings in 1968, losses quickly mounted. The company was hampered by industrial disputes, by hardline unions and poor production methods.

In 1975 it was nationalised, renamed British Leyland, and rescued by the Government at a cost of £1.25 billion. Just six years later the Government handed British Leyland a further £980 million to try to raise standards and implement a four-year corporate plan.

In 1984 the Jaguar/Daimler operation was spun off and two years later British Leyland became Rover Group. Between 1987 and 1988 more than £1.2 billion extra was invested as the Government prepared to privatise the loss-making operation. In 1988 Rover was bought by British Aerospace and then sold on to BMW in 1994.

Yesterday's £200 million — which works out at £14,285 for each of the 14,000 jobs saved — is modest by comparison with the huge handouts of the past, though the British Government will be hoping that this is a full and final settlement for the ailing business.

SUZANNE HUBBARD



Michael Stoddart, chairman of Electra Investment Trust, left, with Hugh Mumford and Sir Michael Pickard, as the company's defence document was published yesterday

Borrowing pledge by Electra

THE DEBT taken on to fund a £550 million share buyback programme at Electra Investment Trust, the venture capital fund, will be "substantially" paid back within a year, Electra said yesterday (Martin Barrow writes).

Electra is currently being laid siege by a £1.25 billion hostile takeover bid from 3i, the rival venture capital group. The pledge on borrowings comes as Electra attempts to repulse 3i approaches.

Electra has about £200 million worth of assets in quoted companies and £300 million worth of unquoted shares which it has identified for disposal. Electra hopes the declaration will ease fears about the ongoing value of Electra shares which remain in existence after completion of the buyback, and assuming the 3i bid is unsuccessful. 3i has urged investors to accept its takeover offer because the debt burden would undermine the ongoing value of Electra shares.

BP runs into Alaskan storm

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

BP AMOCO'S plans to take over Atlantic Richfield (Arco) could fall foul of the regulatory authorities in Alaska where there is growing concern in the US state's legislature over BP's potential dominance of Alaska's primary industry.

The $25 billion-plus (£15.5 billion) takeover of Arco, expected to be announced today, will immediately breach Alaskan statutes which limit a company's right to oil exploration acreage. Ken Boyd, director of Alaska's Department of Natural Resources, said the takeover of Arco would give the new BP 870,349 acres onshore, well above the 500,000 acre limit. The Alaskan government could force the company to relinquish or sell excess holdings within 90 days of a takeover.

Mr Boyd said the Alaskan government was preparing a statement which would be issued if a takeover is announced. "Concern is being expressed. The first thing that comes to mind is jobs. There is a lot of duplication and redundancy," he said.

He added that competitiveness was also a concern with the new BP controlling the largest producing field, Prudhoe Bay, as well as 95 of Kuparuk, another large field. He said BP would acquire a controlling stake in the Trans Alaska Pipeline. "It also concerns other facilities as well as pipelines linking the fields."

The Alaskan government is believed to be reviewing what powers it has to influence the takeover beyond controlling the acreage limits. These were established to prevent excessive dominance and hoarding of acreage without investing in exploration.

The Arco board was meeting yesterday to approve the takeover after approval by BP's board on Tuesday.

Exchange fines ABN Amro £250,000

By Caroline Merrell, Banking Correspondent

THE London Stock Exchange has levied one of its biggest financial penalties after finding ABN Amro, the Dutch-owned investment house, guilty of market misconduct.

The fine of £250,000 concerned share deals carried out on the UK stock market at the end of last year. The Exchange also fined Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the US investment bank, £100,000 over the same rule breach.

The Stock Exchange said that the banks had broken its rules by buying or selling shares on behalf of a customer, where the instructions for the transaction included a request for the banks' traders to move the price of the share.

The exchange refused to name the stock targeted, nor the customer, though it is understood to be a US fund manager.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, the US regulator, is also looking into the share trades as the action against ABN Amro is believed to be in connection with the activities of Angelo Iannone, one of the best-known traders on Wall Street.

Mr Iannone left ABN Amro at the end of last year, having joined the bank in 1997 after 12 years at Goldman Sachs. At ABN Amro, Mr Iannone was responsible for carrying out transactions for American investors on European stock markets.

ABN Amro refused to comment on the fine.

A spokesman for Morgan Stanley in London, however, took issue with the findings. He said: "Morgan Stanley Securities did not give effect to any improper customer request and all trading effected by Morgan Stanley Securities for the customer was conducted in accordance with the rules of the exchange."

The largest fine imposed by the Stock Exchange was the £350,000 on JP Morgan at the end of 1997. The fine was levied after two traders attempted to move the market — the traders were subsequently dismissed by the firm.

The JP Morgan fine marked the beginning of a concerted campaign by the Stock Exchange to stamp out market malpractice.

Irregular share transactions are monitored by the Stock Exchange's integrated monitoring and surveillance system (IMAS). A team of about 12 people look at the movement of share prices. Any irregular price movements are picked up by computer. A member of the team will immediately take up matters with the compliance office of a member firm. Traders will usually be interviewed almost immediately.

There is no limit to the fines that can be imposed by the exchange. Of the average 100,000 bargains carried out on the exchange daily, several "alerts" are triggered. About 100 full-scale investigations are carried out annually, of these 30 are handed over to the Department of Trade and Industry.

In just over a year's time, responsibility for investigating market manipulation and malpractice will be held by the Financial Services Authority, the new super-regulator.

The Stock Exchange recently disclosed that it intended to upgrade the IMAS system, at a cost of £4.5 million, ahead of introduction of the Financial Services and Markets Bill, the contents of which are currently being debated.

Commentary, page 31

Business Today



Graham Searjeant
Boardroom pay and why the gaps are widening
page 33

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6295.3	(+31.2)
Yield	2.45%	
FTSE All Share	2894.79	(+11.69)
Nikkei	15836.59	(-22.53)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9899.94	(-13.32)*
S&P Composite	1299.63	(-1.12)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5[illegible]%*	(4[illegible]%)
Long bond	94[illegible]*	(95[illegible])
Yield	5.65%*	(5.59%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5[illegible]%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	117.34	(117.00)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6145*	(1.6116)
London:		
$	1.6133	(1.6137)
€	1.4948	(1.4994)
SFr	2.3893	(2.3952)
Yen	191.18	(194.34)
£ Index	102.9	(103.2)



DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0809*	(1.0722)
SFr	1.4770*	(1.4903)
Yen	118.47*	(120.38)
$ Index	106.20	(106.9)

Tokyo close Yen 119.90

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent15-day(Jun)	$15.80	($14.80)

GOLD

London close	$279.85	($279.75)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 30

Scardino earns £1m at Pearson



PEARSON, the information and publishing group whose interests include the *Financial Times*, has broken its own remuneration policy to reward the performance of its chief executive, Marjorie Scardino.

Ms Scardino, who has presided over a growth surge at Pearson had total remuneration of £1.04 million last year compared with £752,000 in 1997.

The Pearson chief executive was paid an annual salary of £445,000. Under the company's rules, executive directors can earn up to 100 per cent of salary based on performance, assessed on a number of indicators, including

port and accounts, not only has Ms Scardino qualified for the full 100 per cent bonus of £445,000 but the personnel committee has decided to pay a "discretionary" bonus of £100,000 on top.

During the year Pearson's sales rose by 4 per cent, operating profit increased by 19 per cent and operating cash flow shot up by 147 per cent to £392 million.

In addition, Mrs Scardino has presided over an extraordinary share price performance which has seen Pearson's stock, up 51p at £14.11 yesterday, double over the last 18 months. Ms Scardino joined the company in

Television, who had total remuneration of £768,000, also more than doubled from last year. His pay included a "a special performance-related bonus" of £275,000 delivered in Pearson shares which have to be held for three years.

The two other executive directors, David Bell, director for people, and John Makinson, finance director also got bonuses equalling 100 per cent of their salaries. Mr Bell's total remuneration was £496,000, compared with £303,000 last time and Mr Makinson went up to £555,000 up from £351,000 in 1997.

☐ Peter George, chief executive of Ladbroke Group, earned a total of

Slide in German profits hits RMC

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

STAGNATION in Germany's building industry continues to afflict RMC, the building products group, which yesterday reported a 10 per cent slide in trading profit, to £304 million, last year despite good growth in the US and in the rest of continental Europe. Pre-tax profits, excluding an exceptional gain of £70 million, fell 14 per cent, to £264 million.

RMC is seeking to shift the balance of its business away from Germany, where its profits fell 39 per cent, to £76 million, and yesterday the group announced the purchase of two concrete products companies in America's Southwest.

RMC is paying $75 million (£46 million) for the two companies, Jobe Concrete Products, based in El Paso, Texas, and Reno Sparks, which owns five concrete plants in Nevada. In addition to the cash consideration, RMC is taking on $42 million in borrowings for the two businesses, which together made operating profits of $12.7 million on sales of $94 million in latest figures.

Peter Young, RMC's chief executive, said that the deals marked its entry into Texas, Nevada and New Mexico and would provide links with existing businesses in California and Arizona. "The US represents the group's third-largest activity by country and these acquisitions are in line with our strategy to continue to expand in this region," he said.

Trading in Germany, which accounts for a third of RMC's profits, worsened substantially in the final quarter of last year as bad weather hit most of the country. Overall, construction spending in Germany fell by 3.5 per cent, but volumes in eastern Germany suffered the most, with declines of 15 to 25 per cent.

RMC is making efforts to cut costs, reducing its five German divisions to three, with the workforce being reduced by 17 per cent over the past three years. The company yesterday forecast little change in demand in western Germany in the current year but further reduction in volumes in the eastern Germany.

In the US, trading profit rose by 17 per cent, to £54 million, with a 16 per cent increase in concrete volumes, mainly in Georgia, Florida, Arizona and California.

In the UK, profits grew to £87 million, representing an underlying 11 per cent rise despite generally flat markets. Demand slipped in the second half as infrastructure and housing starts fell back. Great Mills, the DIY retail chain, beat its sector with a 4.5 per cent rise in like-for-like sales and increased market share.

RMC's earnings per share fell 14 per cent, to 60.2p, but the dividend is being raised by 4 per cent, to 29p, for the year.

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EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.65	2.48
Austria Sch	21.61	19.95
Belgium Fr	63.62	58.66
Canada $	2.562	2.374
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9102	0.8387
Denmark Kr	11.72	10.83
Egypt	5.72	5.11
Finland Mkk	9.46	8.71
France Fr	10.30	9.52
Germany Dm	3.093	2.851
Greece Dr	515	476
Hong Kong $	13.34	12.14
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	17588	12588
Ireland Pt	1.2343	1.1453
Israel Shk	6.85	6.20
Italy Lira	3076	2839
Japan Yen	206.31	188.78
Malta	0.676	0.617
Netherlds Gld	3.492	3.197
New Zealand $	3.16	2.93
Norway Kr	13.10	12.16
Portugal Esc	312.87	290.84
S Africa Rd	10.63	9.67
Spain Pta	260.75	241.96
Sweden Kr	14.09	12.99
Switzerland Fr	2.545	2.327
Turkey Lira	615653	574732
USA $	1.721	1.578

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Peter Young, chief executive, has unveiled higher UK earnings for RMC, but a 10 per cent fall in group trading profits

BTR Siebe seals Far East link-up

By Robert Lea

BTR Siebe, the engineering and electronics group, yesterday made its first move since its recent £9 billion tie-up with the announcement that it is to merge its Far Eastern power supply business with Nippon Electric Industry of Japan. The merged company, with Y60 billion (£300 million) of sales, will be listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Nemic-Lambda, BTR Siebe's operating subsidiary said it is paying less than £34 million for 47.7 per cent of Nippon Electric, currently owned by NEC, the troubled Japanese electronics company. Nippon Electric last year made just £1 million in operating profit on sales of £178 million. A spokesman for BTR Siebe said: "Clearly, it is not delivering the margins. We see plenty of potential there."

BTR Siebe also dampened expectations of a rapid sale of its unwanted, £1.9 billion-rated automotive and paper technology operations. But the company admitted that it is being advised by Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley on the matter.

Commentary, page 31

New pay law's effect 'marginal'

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE MINIMUM wage, which comes into force today, will have a marginal effect on many industries, according to a report commissioned by the Low Pay Commission.

A survey of more than 600 companies in the hotel, catering, services and other low-pay industries says that there is little evidence of job losses having been triggered by the prospect of minimum pay. It notes expansion plans by many low-paying businesses.

The report, by Incomes Data Services, finds that many companies will pay, or are paying, the adult minimum wage of £3.60 to employees over 18 even though the law requires a starting rate of only £3 for people aged 18 to 21. It also says that where minimum pay has been introduced early, there have been few signs of a knock-on effect on the wage structure.

Separately, the Ministry of Defence may be pressed to renegotiate contracts with service companies at Army sites. *Personnel Today* quotes a contractor demanding new contracts to replace old ones struck before minimum pay.

BNFL cuts 500 Sellafield jobs

By Christine Buckley

FIVE HUNDRED jobs are to go at the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant as part of a large cost-cutting programme. The jobs will go over the next two years at the Cumbrian centre, which employs 10,000. BNFL, the State-owned nuclear fuels company, said none of the redundancies would be compulsory.

The cuts are part of a drive to reduce costs by 25 per cent by 2002 as BNFL tries to compete with international rivals. Much of BNFL's work is now in overseas markets, while in the UK it supplies fuel to British Energy and reprocesses waste.

The latest move on jobs comes as the Government is considering privatisation or a partial sell-off of BNFL. The Department of Trade and Industry has commissioned the accountants KPMG to look at options for BNFL and an announcement is expected in the next couple of months.

The Government could go for a sale of 49 per cent of the business as a means of avoiding full-scale privatisation. Some unions have suggested a smaller sale, with a drip feed of shares in the company offered to the market. Up to 10 per cent could be sold in the first year and then more over progressive years to prevent taxpayers from being short-changed by an undervalued sell-off.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BT pays £200m into pension fund

BRITISH TELECOM is making a special payment of £200 million to its main pension scheme, the BT Pension scheme, the largest single private sector pension fund in the UK. The payment, which has been welcomed by the scheme's trustees, is being made in advance of the next full actuarial valuation planned for the end of this year. The payment is being made because the increase in the fund's assets in 1998 failed to keep pace fully with the increase in its liabilities in the year, mainly because of a fall in interest rates. The investment fund's return was 13.9 per cent in 1998.

In the year to the end of December the pension fund's assets grew from £22.67 billion to £24.9 billion. BT said that full provision for the special contribution had already been made and would have no impact on the company's profit and loss account. The last full actuarial valuation, carried out at December 31, 1996, showed a small surplus of £66 million. In between the three-yearly full actuarial valuations, trustees review annually the effect of redundancy costs and the financial health of the fund.

Eight in 'virtual index'

THE "virtual index" of British Internet companies will be launched today — April Fool's Day — amid criticism from both analysts and business that it contains too few companies. FTSE International, the company that organises the Stock Exchange's index classification system, has chosen eight companies to be included in the virtual index. These will be: Dialog Corporation; Gresham Computing; Easynet; Intelligent Environment Group; Internet Technology Group; Netcall; VirtualInternet.net; and Voss Net. Commentary, page 31

Target's brief closure

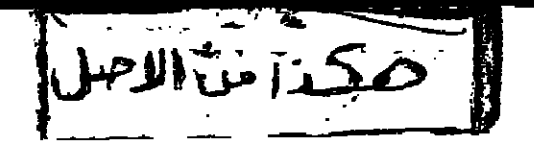
THE European Central Bank is to close its Target payment system, used by commercial banks to settle their accounts with the ECB, for one day, on December 31, this year. The ECB said the closure was intended to enhance the safety of the transition to the year 2000. The bank's governing council, which took the decision to close the system for the last day of the year, believed that general preparatory work for the year 2000 should not only cover testing, but also the adoption of preventative and supportive measures to avoid disruptions.

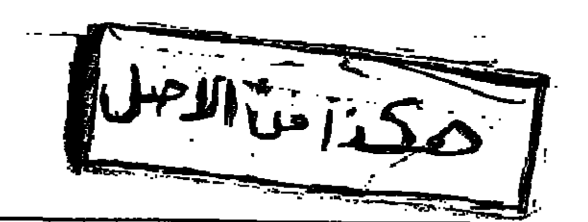
Ryland sells stake

RYLAND Group, the car distributor, is to sell a 75 per cent share in Ryland Multifleet, its contract hire subsidiary, to Arval, the vehicle leasing offshoot of Paribas, the French bank. Paribas is paying £25 million for the stake. Ryland's debt gearing will halve as a consequence of the deal, from 90 per cent at the end of its last financial year, to 45 per cent. The lower figure takes account of the planned £8 million acquisition of Wyndham, a rival quoted motor dealer. Tempus, page 32

United raises £10m

UNITED News & Media, the publishing and broadcasting company, is raising £10 million with the sale of six specialist business magazines to Centaur Communications. The magazines, published by United's Miller Freeman subsidiary, include *The Engineer*, first published in 1856. Centaur, established in 1982, specialises in publications in the marketing, design, legal and service sectors. Miller Freeman is focusing on faster-growing markets, including healthcare, music and telecoms.





Malpractice is not an excuse

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Stock market malpractice continues apace, if the two fines meted out by the Stock Exchange are anything to go by. It will continue to do so unless regulators are tough.

The two banks in the firing line, one Dutch-owned and one American, were eager to play down the sins of their traders. Their excuse is arcanely instructive. They claimed that the deals in question did not constitute manipulation, only *malpractice*.

Their defence was that a customer, in the shape of a US institution, had attached a caveat to a buy or sell order. The caveat was that the price of the share had to be moved, the very opposite of a normal instruction. We may speculate that the customer was holding some options on the stock, and felt that the order, laced with a request to move the share price, was the best way of salvaging a complex derivatives position.

The audacity of the customer is breathtaking in its way. After all, calls to broking houses are recorded, and in London at least the exchange has a complicated "real time" monitoring system that tracks untoward movements in stock prices. The conclusion might be reached that the customer was used to having such a share request fulfilled, with no questions asked.

The exchange said yesterday that it intended to spend more on its surveillance system, ahead of the much beefed-up Financial Services and Markets Bill. This new legislation aims to give far greater powers to the Financial Services Authority, the new super-regulator.

The FSA, which will take over from the Department of Trade and Industry as the lead enforcer, will have more powers to pursue market malpractice and to chase insider traders through both civil and criminal courts.

The exchange has not felt the urge to fine any members since 1997, when two traders from JP Morgan, dumped carefully selected FTSE stocks in a thinly traded market. The US bank was fined and the traders fired.

Despite the huge numbers of odd share price movements picked up by the Stock Exchange's system, few actually go to full investigation or prosecution. The exchange argues that many adverse share movements were triggered by press comment or market rumours.

The problem with the UK market lies in liquidity of some of the stocks. The introduction of Sets has made it easier to manipulate the price of particular shares through relatively small deals, or even to manipulate the index itself. Index manipulation was more recently highlighted in the case of James Archer, who has been accused of moving the Swedish market, to satisfy a derivatives position. More liquidity might make the market less open to the abuse being perpetrated by ABN Amro's US customer.

If the FSA is to make any impact, however, it will need to persuade investment banks that malpractice, far from being an excuse, is totally banned.

Virtual index may be real problem

IT IS fitting that the "virtual index" of Britain's Internet companies should be launched on April Fool's Day. Some private investors will undoubtedly study the list of eight companies included in the Internet sub-sector for all of ten seconds before deciding that they are "a dead cert".

Yet shares in these eight little companies — some of which are unknown even to the City's most knowledgable information technology analysts — are, in most cases, fool's gold. It is even questionable whether some of the companies in the sub-sector, most notably Dialog Corporation and Gresham Computing, really should be classified as Internet stocks at all.

The problem is, of course, that Britain doesn't really have any pure Internet companies, such as eBay or Amazon.com in the US. These two companies — an online auctioneer and virtual bookshop respectively — have created hugely valuable brands in almost no time at all, while seriously undermining their traditional rivals. In contrast, our IT sector is made up mainly of Internet service providers, software developers, and systems integration and outsourcing companies.

This is not to say that British companies have failed to embrace the Internet: they are just doing it in a different way. The number of traditional retailers, such as Dixons and WH Smith, which have launched free Internet services over the past few months, is proof of that.

Britain's lack of pure Internet stocks, however, has made life very difficult for FTSE International, the organiser of Britain's stock market indices. To ignore the Internet would be suicidally unfashionable; yet to embrace it involves creating a highly dubious index.

It may not be surprising that FTSE International opted for the latter, but it is nevertheless a dangerous move. While investment banks are unlikely to create funds to specifically invest in the virtual index, it is conceivable that some private investors may blindly pump their savings into it. After all, it was this kind of mania that recently resulted in shares in On-Line, the Internet games producer, rising 2,088 per cent in a fortnight, before their inevitable crash back to reality.

Meanwhile, the City is likely to ignore the index, and make up its own mind about what is, or is not, an Internet company.

Obviously, this would be a ludicrous situation, and FTSE International should be urged to refine its Internet classification system.

Investors warm to invensys

Fresh from adding to the list of silly names (Elementis, Glanbia *et al*) quoted on the London Stock Exchange, BTR Siebe — which from later this month will be known as invensys — got down to some real business yesterday.

Its first acquisition since the merger, snapping up NEC's 47 per cent stake in Nippon Electric, which provides power supply products, is probably a classic bit of Far Eastern bottom-fishing. The figures are not large, but the acquisition is a typical old-style Siebe deal of buying an underperforming business — this one has operating margins of less than 1 per cent — with upside potential. An investment in the Far East may seem bold but BTR Siebe argues that the markets in China, Malaysia and elsewhere remain huge.

Of greater importance was the company's other announcement yesterday that investors should not get too carried away by either the imminence or the value — touted at £1.9 billion — of the sale of its unwanted ex-BTR businesses.

The BTR Siebe merger was undoubtedly defensive. But if Allen Yurko, its chief executive, with the help of newly appointed advisers Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, can raise that sort of money and reroute it into its chosen core of power controls and automation, then BTR Siebe can start to deliver on its promises to stand full square with its American counterparts. With its shares, at last, heading in the right direction, it would appear that investors, thus far, like what they see.

Another minefield

JUDGED by the standards of some recent Finance Bills, yesterday's effort, at 170 pages, was relatively short. The credit for that goes to Gordon Brown's welcome failure to "reform" inheritance tax, which would undoubtedly have spawned the vast and incomprehensible verbiage that accompanied, for instance, largely pointless recasting of North Sea oil taxation. Ominously, the Treasury's explanatory document is now overtaking the Bill in length. It is a treacherous guide to an annual minefield.

Energy groups get chance to buy IPE stakes

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

THE International Petroleum Exchange (IPE) in London is preparing to launch a tender offer of shares in itself to eight or more European and American energy companies.

Potential investors include Distrigas, the Belgian gas company, Total of France, Nordpool, the Nordic power exchange, and OM Group, which owns the Swedish Stock Exchange.

The investor group is also believed to include Enron, the US energy company, which is active in trading gas and electricity futures.

The IPE is hoping to raise a minimum of £25 million from the sale of 70 per cent of the shares currently owned by exchange members. The new initiative means that talks with Nymex over the possible takeover of the IPE by its New York rival have been abandoned for the time being.

The IPE board yesterday approved the plans to seek new investment after several members of the exchange voiced disquiet over the sale to Nymex.

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, the IPE chairman, said: "The proposal for attracting external investment into the exchange and transforming it into a for-profit company is potentially very interesting."

Lynton Jones, the IPE chief executive, said that interested parties would be asked to bid for a stake in the exchange, with a maximum of 15 per cent per investor, and some £3 million would be earmarked for developing new markets.

He said: "One common factor is that the investors want to see a European-based integrated energy market. That could mean trading gas, electricity, emissions, and even weather."

Enron, which is thought to be interested in taking a stake in the IPE, is heavily involved in energy trading in the US, where energy companies can hedge future weather conditions by taking bets on a temperature index.

The IPE is keen to develop its existing gas trading activity further as gas markets are liberalised in continental Europe. This could lead to a European gas futures market.

In electricity, markets on the Continent are further ahead in liberalisation. However, the IPE is involved in talks over the reform of the Electricity Pool, and the exchange intends to be ready to launch an electricity futures market when the new arrangements are announced next year.

Existing IPE members will be compensated for ceding control by some £300,000 per floor member seat.

Nomura in £810m pub securitisation

By Dominic Walsh

NOMURA International, the Japanese-owned investment bank, has refinanced its 2,600-strong Unique Pub Co estate through an £810 million securitisation.

The bond issue, which overtakes Punch Taverns as the UK's largest pub-backed securitisation, was arranged by Nomura's Principal Finance Group, led by Guy Hands, jointly with the Royal Bank of Scotland's treasury and capital markets division.

Giles Thorley, chief executive of Unique Pub Co, said the group's plans to seek a stock market flotation within two to three years were unaffected by the deal. "The securitisation is really our debt funding and the equity funding is still an issue for the future," he said.

Mr Thorley said that the terms of the deal, at less than 7 per cent, would allow Unique to invest more of the cash thrown off by the group into its 2,614 tenanted pubs.

He said investment of £20 million had been earmarked in the current year, settling down to about £7 million to £10 million a year thereafter. "This year we're catching up on the lack of expenditure of the past," he said.

The previous biggest such exercise was last year's £535 million securitisation by Bankers Trust of Punch Taverns, which has recently been rumoured to be up for sale. Hugh Osmond, chairman of Punch, admitted that the future of Punch was under review in the wake of Bankers Trust's impending takeover by Deutsche Bank, but he described a trade sale as "highly unlikely".

Mr Osmond added: "I would strongly expect that Punch will remain independent. The prospect of a sale to a trade buyer is almost non-existent. Either Bankers Trust will stick with it, or another financial backer will come in alongside or instead of BT."

GAVIN FOGG



Aquarius chief executive, Stephen Luddington, right, and finance director Mark Bates, yesterday unveiled a rise in group pre-tax profits by 31 per cent to £7 million last year. The bathrooms and household furnishings group said the results came despite deteriorating market conditions in the second half. A final dividend of 5.7p makes a total of 9.1p (9p).

Bid spotlight lifts Powerscreen

By Martin Barrow

SHARES of Powerscreen International rose 44½p to 149½p yesterday after the Northern Ireland building equipment company said it had received a bid approach.

The company, whose shares plummeted last year after two profit warnings and an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office into accounting irregularities, has been at the centre of takeover rumours in recent weeks. At yesterday's closing price the company is worth about £140 million.

Speculation intensified in October when Sean Quinn, a businessman based in Northern Ireland, acquired a 6.1 per cent stake to become the largest shareholder. It was not clear yesterday whether Mr Quinn is involved in the bid approach. Mr Quinn is a friend of the former chief executive, Shay McKeown, who left after the Matbro affair.

Powerscreen shares peaked at 762p, valuing the business at more than £703 million, in 1997. But the company's strong stock market run came to an abrupt halt upon the discovery of accounting irregularities at Matbro, its agricultural equipment subsidiary. This led to the first of two profit warnings in January 1998.

The company's woes deepened after it warned it expected to slide into a pre-tax loss of £65 million for 1997, compared with profits of £42 million a year earlier.

Powerscreen has since implemented a disposal plan to reduce debt and refocus on its core businesses of crushing and screening. In January the company posted interim pretax profits of £9.7 million.

Board changes as JBA falls into red

By Chris Ayres

JBA HOLDINGS, the troubled software group whose shares have lost 88 per cent of their value since 1997, yesterday announced the resignation of two directors, and a plunge into the red during the year ended December 31, 1998.

The company, which produces so-called "enterprise resource planning" software, aimed at medium-sized corporations, said that David Williams, finance director, and Kevin Jones, co-founder and technical director, had left the company on Tuesday.

JBA said that both men had "expressed a desire to return to the smaller, unlisted companies environment". Mr Williams will receive an estimated compensation package of £266,000, while Mr Jones, who said he planned to leave last year, is expected to receive no severance pay.

Other changes during the year included Alan Vickery, the company's co-founder and chairman, handing over the position of chief executive to Ken Briddon, formerly chief operating officer.

Yesterday, JBA reported "very disappointing" losses of £1.7 million for 1998, compared with profits of £5.2 million. Sales rose 31 per cent to £293 million, while losses per share were 20.92p, compared with 10.12p earnings per share.

Mr Vickery said: "A very poor December in 1998 stalled the considerable progress management had made in restructuring JBA. Nineteen ninety nine has started well and the results are ahead of budget. This, together with a more conservative and less back-end loaded revenue profile, gives us confidence the task will be completed in 1999."

The boardroom shake-up at JBA, and Mr Vickery's trading statement, caused shares to rise 12 per cent to 149p yesterday, compared with £12.57½ in 1997.

Specialist McKechnie on track

By Paul Armstrong

GREATER focus on specialist products has enabled McKechnie, the engineering group, to report a steady interim pre-tax profit of £28.6 million despite the sale of its Australian assets.

McKechnie yesterday unveiled pretax profits from continuing operations up 23 per cent, to £30 million, helped by the acquisition in May of the Arger aerospace products business in the US.

Andrew Walker, chief executive, said that McKechnie's strategy of focusing on more specialist engineering products was reflected in 23 per cent growth in operating margins, to 11.6 per cent.

Mr Walker said that the cyclical nature of the company's business had been reduced by an increase in direct sales to aerospace customers as opposed to supplying wholesalers.

"We have a lot more control in our marketplace now," he said. "That reflects the high engineering input we are putting into products."

Mr Walker said that Arger, and the purchase of PTM International in October, had fuelled a 38 per cent rise in operating profits from McKechnie's specialist products division, to £12 million.

Demand in the aerospace industry had helped to offset weaker demand for automotive components in the UK.

The engineered plastics division, which makes the storage crates used in many supermarkets, reported 29 per cent growth in profits, to £15 million.

However, McKechnie's consumer products businesses continued to suffer from weaker UK and European markets. The withdrawal from low-margin business in Australia also had an effect, leaving the division's profit 22 per cent lower, at £3.2 million.

McKechnie shares fell 3½p to 436½p.

Tempus, page 32

STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Lasmo and Enterprise slip as FTSE moves up

FED ON a further diet of merger news and speculation, share prices ended the first quarter on a firm note.

But with Wall Street giving up early gains, the best levels in London were not held. The FTSE 100 index, having been 90 points higher earlier in the session, closed 31.2 up at 6,295.3. The FTSE 250 index was 0.6 down at 5,475.2 with total turnover falling short of the billion share mark.

The breakdown in merger talks left **Lasmo** nursing a fall of 8½p at 125½p, while **Enterprise Oil** shed 10½p at 356¼p, partly reflecting the decision to suspend drilling at its Llano appraisal well in the US.

Shareholders must now be wondering what the future holds for the two companies.

Of the two, Enterprise appears to be attracting the most support with Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, rating the shares a "buy" up to the 400p level. BT Alex Brown also rates them a "strong buy".

GEC raced up 13½p to 558½p after a meeting with brokers on Tuesday. Some came away from the meeting with the view that the proposed merger of GEC's Marconi with British Aerospace's defence arm will escape a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the investment bank, has been overhauling its portfolio. It has cut its rating for **Zeneca**, 24p down at £29.21, from "outperform" to "underperform" on the back of a strong performance last month. It has also downgraded **Ladbroke**, off 21¼p at 278p, from "outperform" to "neutral" after its recent strong performance. Some brokers insisted the setback for Ladbroke reflected the profits warning at **Stanley Leisure**, down 22½p at 275p.

Laporte retreated 9½p to 553p as HSBC Securities, the broker, cut its rating for the shares from "buy" to "add". It says the shares have been a strong market, outperforming by 17 per cent during the past eight months.

A new lease of life was discovered by **Marks & Spencer** with the price climbing back above the 400p level with a rise of 18¾p at 408p as 12.2 million shares changed hands. Earlier this week, the group announced plans to shed 200 middle managers jobs at its London headquarters.



Terry Green saw Debenhams drop 13p as Merrill Lynch cut its rating in the shares from 'accumulate' to 'neutral'

Merrill Lynch, the broker, reckons **Debenhams** has begun running ahead of events and has duly cut its rating in the shares from "accumulate" to "neutral". Debenhams, headed by Terry Green, chief executive, remains its favourite play in the retail sector, but the price dropped 13p to 475½p in response.

Fresh institutional support lifted **Nycomed Amersham** 36½p to 540p. Bill Castell, chief executive, yesterday gave a presentation to institutions at a roadshow arranged by Salomon Smith Barney, the US securities house.

Premier Farnell stood out with a rise of 21p to 216p after some favourable comments from Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker. This also benefited **Electrocomponents**, up 18½p at 465p, which has already secured the backing of HSBC Securities, the broker.

The speculators continue to top up their holdings in **Pilkington**, 3½p better at 82½p, as a further 12 million shares changed hands. They maintain St Gobain is poised to offer 100p a share.

AEA Technology, which issued a profits warning last week, fell a further 7½p to 341p. Dr Peter Watson, chief executive, has bought 10,000 shares at 375p. He now holds 50,285 shares. Earlier this week, Sir Anthony Cleaver, chairman, bought 10,000 shares. The price has collapsed from a peak of £10.29, and AEA looks vulnerable.

Lonmin firmed 8p to 450p as Merrill Lynch raised its recommendation for the mining company from "accumulate" to "buy". Merrill has also been raising its earnings estimate for **Billiton**, steady at 149¾p, and has been urging clients to switch out of **Rio Tinto**, down 22p at 859½p.

Speculative buying hoisted **Mears**, the building maintenance contracter, 1½p to 13½p. Michael Ashcroft's Carlisle Group is tipped to make a bid at some stage. Carlisle is the entrepreneur's latest vehicle with a warchest of between £70 million and £90 million to spend on acquisitions. Mears reported a 26 per cent rise in profits last year and should achieve £1.2 million this time round. Eaglet Investment Trust acquired 12 per cent of the shares last week.

☐ **GILT EDGED:** Hopes of a cut in interest rates next week continued to fuel bond markets. Prices opened higher in thin trading with investors also topping up their holdings ahead of the close of the first quarter. But after their early mark-up prices tended to trade sideways for much of the session.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt rose 34p to £117.34 in thin trading that saw just 20,000 contracts completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 8p better at £106.77, while at the longer end Treasury 8 per cent 2021 finished 51p dearer at £146.81.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Blue chips were lower as inflation and interest rate concerns crept back into the market. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 13.32 down at 9,899.94.

FLYING HIGH — FTSE All-share Index (rebased); FTSE 350 engineering index. Mar–Mar, 1,600–3,200. Source: Datastream

BUSINESS in the aerospace industry has been booming. This year will see the current civil delivery cycle reach a peak and that has begun to depress share values.

But BT Alex Brown, the broker, says that this weakness should provide clients with the opportunity to invest for the long term.

It expects deregulation to lead to a broadening of the civil aerospace market and this, combined with increased defence procurement and a booming satellite and space industry, the downside appears limited.

"On the contrary, the long-term dynamics of the industry remain attractive and it is opportune to increase holdings," says Brian MacDonald, who covers the defence engineers for BTAB.

He rates British Aerospace, up ½p at 415p, as a "buy" despite current uncertainty over the proposed merger of its defence interests with Marconi. Also on his shopping list is Smiths Industries, up 25p at 916p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 9899.94 (-13.32)
S&P Composite 1299.63 (-1.12)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 15836.59 (-22.53)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10942.20 (+1.99)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 536.93 (+2.53)

Sydney:
AO 2967.2 (-28.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4884.20 (+27.36)

Singapore:
Straits 1518.31 (+0.23)

Brussels:
BEL20 3251.45 (-9.35)

Paris:
CAC-40 4197.88 (+55.90)

Zurich:
SMI Index 7130.2 (+106.1)

London:
FT 30 3835.0 (+31.2)
FTSE 100 6295.3 (+31.2)
FTSE 250 5475.2 (-0.6)
FTSE 350 2991.2 (+12.5)
FTSE Eurotop 100 2920.06 (+16.80)
FTSE All-Share 2894.79 (+11.69)
FTSE Non Financials 2936.67 (+10.03)
FTSE Fixed Interest 153.76 (+0.16)
FTSE Govt Secs 113.36 (Same)
Bargains 99865
SEAQ Volume 1064.8m
US$ 1.6138 (+0.0002)
Euro 0.6689 (+0.0030)
£:SDR 1.1927
Exchange Index 102.9 (-0.3)
Bank on England official close (4pm)
RPI 163.7 Feb (2.1%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX 162.3 Feb (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

Axon Group	272½	+ 1
BGI Endowment III	99½	...
Cairngorm Euro Restruct	107½	+ 2
Cairngorm Restruct Wrts	25	- ½
Canary Wharf (WI)	331½	- ½
Enhanced Zero Trust	100½	...
Gander Properties	7½	...
Gartmore High Income	107	+ 1
Gartmore Zero Div Pf	106¾	...
Govett Enhanced Dv Pf	102¾	+ ¼
Govett Enhanced Inc	94	...
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	108	...
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	102	+ ¾
Luminar Warrants	255	+ 5
M Currie Cap Return	75½	...
M Currie Portfolio	79½	- ¾
Morse Holdings	244	...
Murray Global Return B Uts	185	...
Murray Global Return Prf	102¼	...
Murray Global Return Units	184½	...
NBA Quantum	110	...
Sports Internet	149½	+ 6

RIGHTS ISSUES

First Tech Cnv Prf n/p (320)	28	...
Holmes Place n/p (275)	17½	- 1½
Waste Recycling n/p (406)	45	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Powerscreen	149½	+ 44½	+ 42.3
IOC Intl	72	+ 16½	+ 29.7
JBA Hldgs	159½	+ 26½	+ 19.9
Ryland†	82½	+ 12	+ 17.0
Q Group	88½	+ 11	+ 14.1
RMC Gp	838½	+ 83	+ 10.9
Premier Farnell	216	+ 21	+ 10.7
COLT Telecom	1116	+100	+ 9.8
Dencora	202½	+ 15	+ 8.0
Energis	1762	+116	+ 7.0
Racal Elect	399½	+ 25	+ 6.6
Investment Co	285	+ 17½	+ 6.5
Allied Zrch	835	+ 42	+ 5.2
Marks Spencer	408	+ 18¾	+ 4.8
Ask Central	547½	+ 25	+ 4.7

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Blick†	260	- 93	- 26.3
Mayborn	47½	- 10	- 17.3
Zambia Copper	80	- 14¾	- 15.5
Stanley Leisure	275	- 22½	- 7.5

TEMPUS

Hooked on drugs

THE long harsh winter is coming to an end for emerging pharmaceutical companies. This week's green shoots include a development deal from Cambridge Antibody Technology potentially worth $70 million (£43 million) and Shire Pharmaceuticals' filing for European marketing approval for an Alzheimer's treatment that will be sold by Johnson & Johnson.

The implosion of British Biotech has obscured the fact that the UK biotech industry is maturing rapidly. Within 18 months or so, there could be five important new drug launches: the Chirocaine anaesthetic from Chiroscience, Vanguard's migraine drug, Shire's Reminyl, Celltech's treatment for acute myeloid leukaemia and Scotia's palliative for those dying of head and neck cancers.

Perhaps not all of these will make it past the regulators. In addition, Chiroscience will have to show evidence of Chirocaine's improved safety to command a good price and find a good marketing partner. Vanguard, also, has its work cut out to find a place for its Miguard product in a market dominated by the big battalions of GlaxoWellcome, AstraZeneca and Pfizer.

But however these and other similar issues are resolved, the leading UK biotechs should soon have real products and substantial revenues. Management of these smaller companies is also much stronger after the high-profile failures of the past two years. As ever, the high risks encourage a portfolio approach to investing in this sector. But Chiroscience, Vanguard and Scotia are cheap, and the stronger-looking Celltech and Shire are closing fast on important milestones. Investors with an appetite for risk should accumulate a weighting.

RMC

BORED with the sorry tale at RMC's German operations, the market chose to focus on the more rosy prospects in the United States. In consequence the stock bounced by 83½p — or 11 per cent — to 838½p. This is charitable, but it does not necessarily make sense.

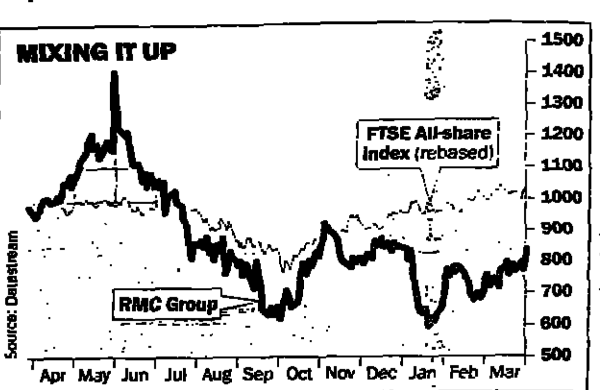
True, rumours were circulating yesterday that RMC may bid for Scancem, the Swedish cement company. But RMC faces stiff competition, and ownership if it comes, may not work sweetly.

It is also true that RMC is doing well in the United States. Yesterday it was pointing to the growth potential in building retirement homes in places such as Florida and California. The company will also be helped by the two deals struck yesterday in the South West of the US, togethere worth $75 million (£46 million). But the German businesses are sitting bear-like. Yesterday's result showed that the profits downturn there was almost five times the profits gain from across the Atlantic.

There is nothing inherently wrong with RMC's US strategy: it is just that it comes too late and is too small to outstrip the scale of its investment in Germany, which is performing so badly.

Investors who want exposure to the booming US building market should look to CRH or even Lafarge of France. Or consider Blue Circle, which provides an early cycle punt on the Asian building products recovery.

Any which way, there is no need to chase RMC.



McKechnie

SHARES in McKechnie have raced ahead 76 per cent in the past six months. Part of the reason for this impressive outperformance is that the whole market has dragged itself back from the precipice over which it looked last October. But McKechnie, which has shown for some time that it has promising potential, has begun to deliver.

The stand-out feature in yesterday's interim profits was the healthy profit margin. Operating profit margins have widened from 9.4 per cent to 11.6 per cent in the past year.

The figure is helped by the sale of lower-margin businesses in Australia. McKechnie has also let go of many of its commodity style products and lifted its production of more specialised goods, such as high-pressure bolts for the hot bits of aerospace engines. In this way it has grown to dominate many of its market places, and better still has been able to drive and maintain selling prices.

The company's engineered plastics operation has also found success with its handling crates, which are a big hit among UK supermarkets and are now being marketed in the US and Europe. The automotive industry's growing use of plastic also offers promise for this division.

With a prospective price/earnings ratio of just 10.5 times, the shares trade at a significant discount to the rest of the engineering sector, let alone the rest of the market. Despite the good run over the past six months the stock should continue to outperform. Buy.

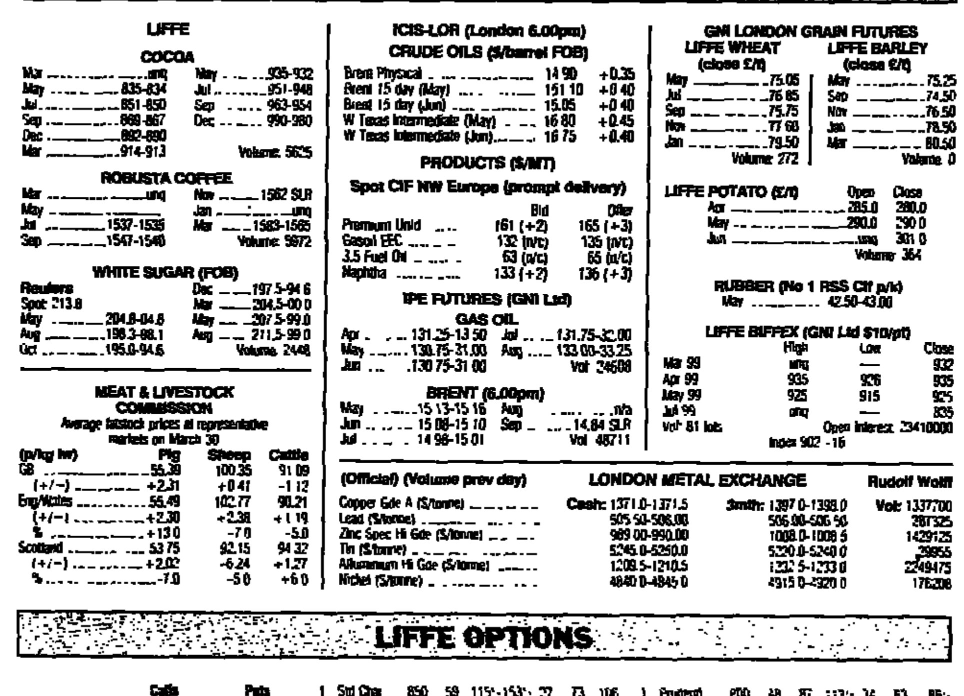
Ryland

DIRECTORS often like to suggest that the sum value of separate parts of a business add up to more than the worth ascribed to the whole. The temptation to whine about undervaluation is particularly hard for small company folk to resist. It is less often, however, that these value opinions can be stress-tested against reality — perhaps fortunately for many of those whose real ambition is to push up share prices unsustainably.

But investors may care to note that one, relatively small, part of Ryland Group is definitely worth more than the entire company. Ryland, a car distributor, plans to sell a majority share in its contract hire fleet for £25 million. Contract hire contributed about a quarter of Ryland's operating profit last year but even after yesterday's 12p share price advance to 83½p the whole company is still valued at only £23 million.

Arguably the business being part-sold is better than what is left behind. Car dealerships have their inconsistent side. But even so, Ryland shares should travel further. Buy.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE



COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	unq	May	935-932
May	835-834	Jul	951-948
Jul	851-850	Sep	963-954
Sep	869-867	Dec	990-980
Dec	892-890		
Mar	914-913	Volume:	5625

ROBUSTA COFFEE

Mar	unq	Nov	1582 SLR
May		Jan	unq
Jul	1537-1535	Mar	1583-1565
Sep	1547-1540	Volume:	5972

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	197.5-94.6
Spot 213.8		Mar	204.5-00.0
May	204.8-04.8	May	207.5-99.0
Aug	198.3-98.1	Aug	211.5-99.0
Oct	195.0-94.6	Volume	2448

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 30

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	55.39	100.35	91.09
(+/-)	+2.31	+0.41	-1.12
Eng/Wales	56.49	102.77	90.21
(+/-)	+2.30	+2.38	+1.19
%	+13.0	-7.0	-5.0
Scotland	53.75	92.15	94.32
(+/-)	+2.02	-6.24	+1.27
%	-7.0	-5.0	+6.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	14.90	+0.35
Brent 15 day (May)	151.10	+0.40
Brent 15 day (Jun)	15.05	+0.40
W Texas Intermediate (May)	16.80	+0.45
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	16.75	+0.40

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	161 (+2)	165 (+3)
Gasoil EEC	132 (n/c)	135 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	63 (n/c)	65 (n/c)
Naphtha	133 (+2)	136 (+3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

Apr	131.25-13.50	Jul	131.75-32.00
May	130.75-31.00	Aug	133.00-33.25
Jun	130.75-31.00	Vol	24608

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	15.13-15.16	Aug	n/a
Jun	15.08-15.10	Sep	14.84 SLR
Jul	14.98-15.01	Vol	48711

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	75.05	May	75.25
Jul	76.85	Sep	74.50
Sep	75.75	Nov	76.50
Nov	77.60	Jan	78.50
Jan	79.50	Mar	80.50
Volume	272	Volume	0

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	285.0	280.0
May	290.0	290.0
Jun	unq	301.0
Volume: 364		

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
May 42.50-43.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

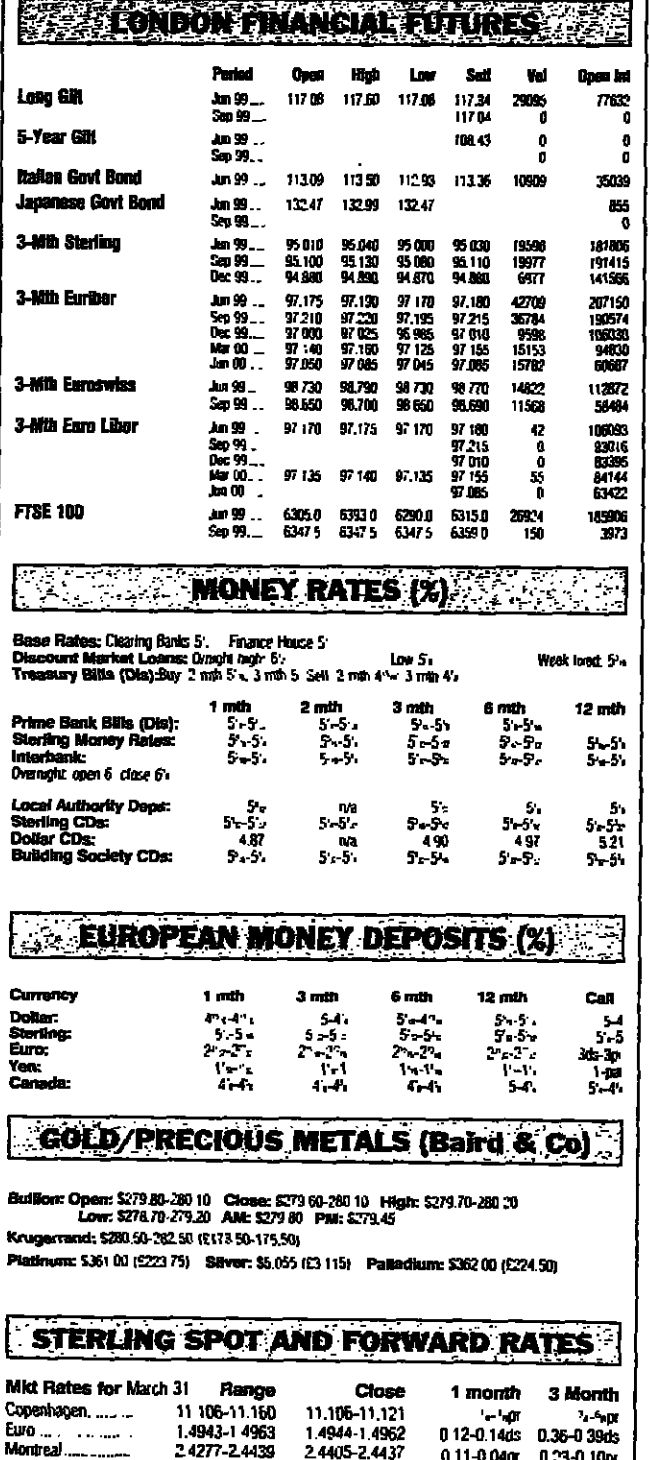
	High	Low	Close
Mar 99	unq	—	932
Apr 99	935	926	935
May 99	925	915	925
Jul 99	unq	—	835

Vol: 81 lots Open interest: 23410000
Index 902 -16

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1371.0-1371.5	1397.0-1398.0	1337700
Lead ($/tonne)	505.50-506.00	506.00-506.50	287325
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	989.00-990.00	1008.0-1008.5	1429125
Tin ($/tonne)	5245.0-5250.0	5220.0-5240.0	29955
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1209.5-1210.5	1232.5-1233.0	2249475
Nickel ($/tonne)	4840.0-4845.0	4915.0-4920.0	176208

LIFFE OPTIONS



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 99	117.08	117.60	117.08	117.34	29095	77632
	Sep 99				117.04	0	0
5-Year Gilt	Jun 99				108.43	0	0
	Sep 99					0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	113.09	113.50	112.93	113.36	10909	35039
Japanese Govt Bond	Jun 99	132.47	132.99	132.47			855
	Sep 99						0
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 99	95.010	95.040	95.000	95.030	19598	181806
	Sep 99	95.100	95.130	95.080	95.110	19977	191415
	Dec 99	94.880	94.890	94.870	94.880	6977	141566
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 99	97.175	97.190	97.170	97.180	42709	207150
	Sep 99	97.210	97.220	97.195	97.215	36784	190574
	Dec 99	97.000	97.025	96.985	97.010	9598	106030
	Mar 00	97.140	97.160	97.125	97.155	15153	94830
	Jun 00	97.050	97.085	97.045	97.085	15782	60687
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 99	98.730	98.790	98.730	98.770	14822	112872
	Sep 99	98.650	98.700	98.650	98.690	11568	58484
3-Mth Euro Libor	Jun 99	97.170	97.175	97.170	97.180	42	106093
	Sep 99				97.215	0	93016
	Dec 99				97.010	0	83395
	Mar 00	97.135	97.140	97.135	97.155	55	84144
	Jun 00				97.085	0	63422
FTSE 100	Jun 99	6305.0	6393.0	6290.0	6315.0	26924	185906
	Sep 99	6347.5	6347.5	6347.5	6359.0	150	3973

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5½ Finance House 5½
Discount Market Loans: Ovnight high: 6½ Low 5½ Week fixed: 5¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy 2 mth 5⅛, 3 mth 5 Sell 2 mth 4⅞ 3 mth 4⅞

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5	
Sterling Money Rates:	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-5
Interbank:	5⅝-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-5
Overnight: open 6 close 6½					
Local Authority Deps:	5⅝	n/a	5½	5¼	5⅛
Sterling CDs:	5½-5¼	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-5
Dollar CDs:	4.87	n/a	4.90	4.97	5.21
Building Society CDs:	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-5

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	4⅞-4¾	5-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5¼-5⅛	5-4
Sterling:	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5½-5
Euro:	2⅞-2¾	2⅞-2¾	2⅞-2¾	2⅞-2¾	3ds-3pr
Yen:	⅛-⅛	1-1	1⅛-1⅛	1-1⅛	1-par
Canada:	4¾-4⅝	4¾-4⅝	4⅞-4¾	5-4⅞	5¼-4⅝

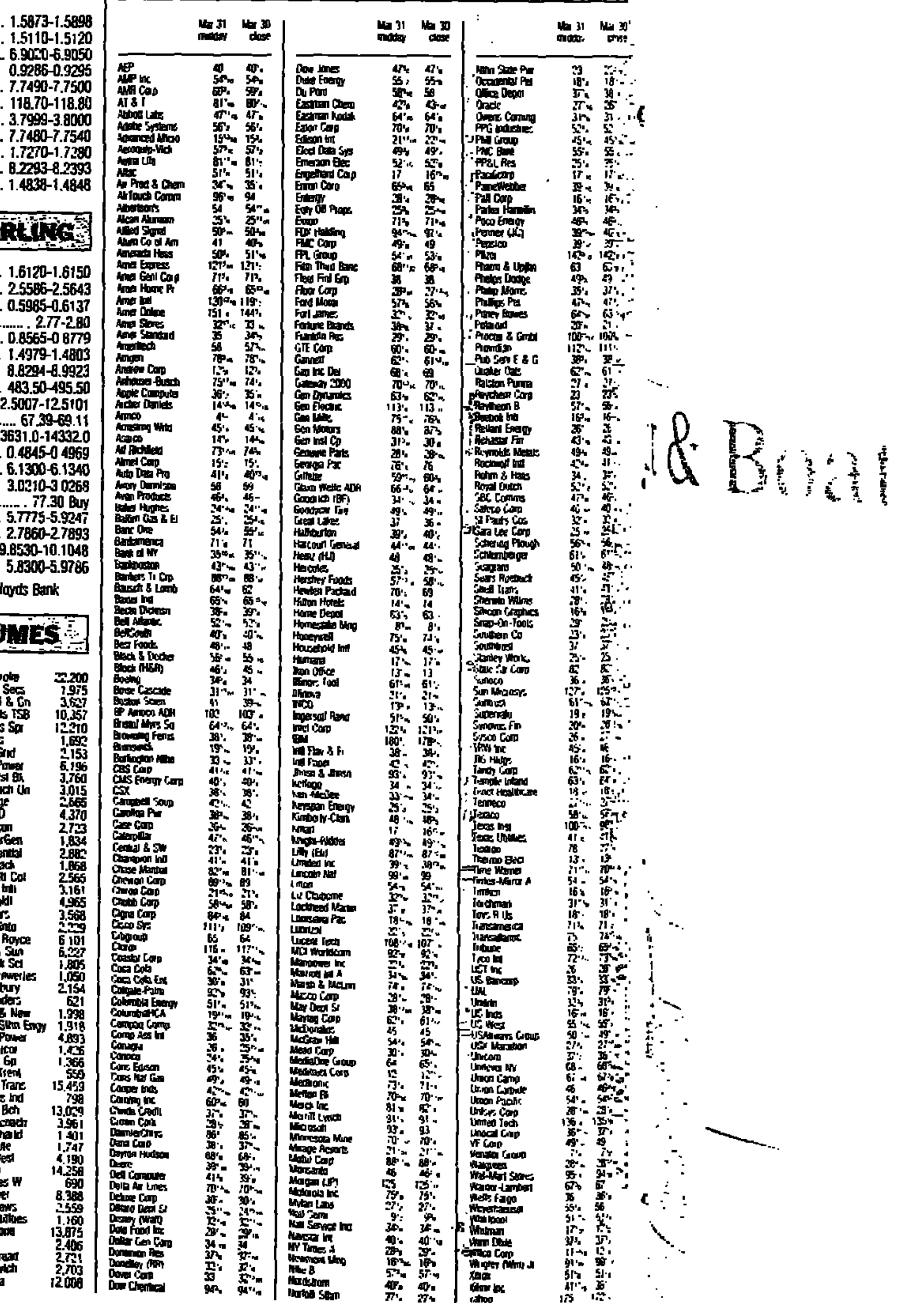
GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $279.80-280.10 **Close:** $279.60-280.10 **High:** $279.70-280.20 **Low:** $278.70-279.20 **AM:** $279.80 **PM:** $279.45
Krugerrand: $280.50-282.50 (£173.50-175.50)
Platinum: $361.00 (£223.75) **Silver:** $5.055 (£3.115) **Palladium:** $362.00 (£224.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 31	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	11.106-11.160	11.106-11.121	⅛-⅛pr	¾-⅝pr
Euro	1.4943-1.4963	1.4944-1.4962	0.12-0.14ds	0.36-0.39ds
Montreal	2.4277-2.4439	2.4405-2.4437	0.11-0.04pr	0.23-0.10pr
New York	1.6080-1.6148	1.6138-1.6148	0.006-0.004r	0.108-0.077pr
Oslo	12.468-12.537	12.468-12.484	⅛-¼ds	⅜-½ds
Stockholm	13.262-13.341	13.262-13.286	⅜-¼pr	¾-⅝pr
Tokyo	191.05-192.56	191.05-191.30	⅞-¾pr	2½-2⅜pr
Zurich	2.3878-2.3987	2.3878-2.3909	⅝-¾pr	2½-2⅜pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds



DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5873-1.5898
Canada	1.5110-1.5120
Denmark	6.9020-6.9050
Euro	0.9286-0.9295
Hong Kong	7.7490-7.7500
Japan	118.70-118.80
Malaysia	3.7999-3.8000
Norway	7.7480-7.7540
Singapore	1.7270-1.7280
Sweden	8.2293-8.2393
Switzerland	1.4838-1.4848

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6120-1.6150
Australia dollar	2.5586-2.5643
Bahrain dinar	0.5985-0.6137
Brazil real*	2.77-2.80
Cyprus pound	0.8565-0.8779
Euro	1.4979-1.4803
Finland markka	8.8294-8.9923
Greece drachma	483.50-495.50
Hong Kong dollar	12.5007-12.5101
India rupee	67.39-69.11
Indonesia rupiah	13631.0-14332.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4845-0.4969
Malaysia ringgit	6.1300-6.1340
New Zealand dollar	3.0210-3.0268
Pakistan rupee	77.30 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7775-5.9247
Singapore dollar	2.7860-2.7893
S Africa rand	9.8530-10.1048
U A E dirham	5.8300-5.9786

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	753	Ladbroke	22,200
ASDA Gp	8,172	Land Secs	7,975
Abbey Ntl	1,994	Legal & Gn	3,627
Allnce & Leic	1,588	Lloyds TSB	10,357
Allied Dom	3,979	Marks Spr	12,210
Allied Zrch	5,006	Misys	1,692
Amvescap	888	Nat Grid	2,153
AB Foods	586	Nat Power	6,196
Bk of Scot	6,811	NatWst Bk	3,760
BAA	2,637	Norwich Un	3,015
Barclays	3,328	Orange	2,665
Bass	3,291	P & O	4,370
BG	30,092	Pearson	2,723
Billiton	3,975	PowerGen	1,834
BOC	1,437	Prudential	2,882
Boots	4,824	Railtrack	1,868
BP Amoco	29,686	Reckitt Col	2,565
BAe	5,709	Reed Intl	3,161
BA	2,623	Rentokil	4,965
Brt Am Tob	17,344	Reuters	3,568
Brit Energy	4,382	Rio Tinto	2,229
BSkyB	1,716	Rolls Royce	6,101
BT	11,200	Ryl & Sun	6,227
BTR Siebe	10,044	Ryl Bk Scl	1,805
CGU	4,053	SA Breweries	1,050
COLT Telecom	2,588	Sainsbury	2,154
Cable Wire	4,909	Schroders	621
Cadbury	2,355	Scot & New	1,998
Carlton Cmc	3,968	Scot Sthn Engy	1,918
Centrica	16,616	Scot Power	4,893
Compass Gp	1,913	Securicor	1,436
Daily Mail A	164	Sema Gp	1,366
Diageo	7,696	Sevn Trent	559
Dixons Grp	2,417	Shell Trans	15,459
EMAP	2,623	Smiths Ind	798
EMI	3,081	SmKl Bch	13,029
Energis	1,114	Stagecoach	3,961
Gen Elec	7,451	Std Chard	1,401
GKN	3,100	Sun Life	1,747
Glaxo Well	8,338	TeleWest	4,190
Granada	2,548	Tesco	14,258
GUS	2,498	Thames W	690
GRE	2,857	Unilever	8,388
Hanson	1,172	Utd News	2,559
ICI	6,036	Utd Utilities	1,160
Imperial Tob	2,233	Vodafone	13,875
HSBC	2,355	WPP	2,406
Halifax	1,994	Whitbread	2,721
Hays	2,577	Woolwich	2,703
Kingfisher	6,016	Zeneca	12,008

WALL STREET

Mar 31 midday / Mar 30 close

Incentives stay in the boardroom

Britain's top bosses are the highest paid in the main industrial countries of Europe and Britain's factory workers among the lowest paid, according to a survey of surveys conducted by *Management Today* magazine.

Redundancy payments of ordinary employees are among the lowest as a percentage of annual pay, about three months on average, while company reports suggest that top directors can usually expect a year's pay, even if they are not among the world class elite with ludicrous contracts.

Top rate taxes were rightly slashed in the 1980s to allow business leaders to keep greater rewards, to stop the highly paid in all walks of life emigrating to tax havens and to remove the perceived need for top executives to spend large and unproductive chunks of their presumably productive working lives closeted with their tax accountants.

Reformers did not anticipate the main consequence. A collective Yippee was followed by huge rises in top pay that persist untrammelled by the advent of a Labour Government and are totally immune to the downturn in inflation or company earnings growth.

We all know why the gaps are widening. Bosses fix employees' pay on the basis that this is a variable business cost. They fix their own pay, or the pay of those they encounter in daily meetings, dinner parties or the executive washroom, on a somewhat different basis.

Our organisation needs the best, so we must attract or keep the best people by paying them the market rate plus a bit, plus a smarter car, plus reliable bonuses, plus better share incentives. What cheapskate economics it would be to let our competitors pay more for top managers and therefore, by implication, have better bosses.

No matter that there is scant evidence that this does anything more than ratchet up top pay. The relatively egalitarian John Lewis Partnership may have performed far better than any comparable department store group but that is surely an exception. Or so the mutually reinforcing culture, abetted by pay, incentive and recruitment consultants, would have us believe. Incentives are what it is all about, plus guarantees, naturally.

Bosses' pay in Britain would be easier to defend if the gulf between the pay and conditions of those deemed crucial to business performance and those regarded chiefly as a factor cost were not widening. But prejudice should not cloud our social judgments, however smog-ridden board remuneration committees have become.

Our flexible labour market is working. After long bad times, low UK unemployment contrasts with bulging job queues on the Continent. That matters. The Government rightly emphasises that the biggest cause of poverty among those of working age is having no income from work. Other things being equal, the more people in work, the fewer people are poor, almost regardless of the distribution of working people's incomes.



That equation would work better if those on low incomes paid less tax on that income, logically at the expense of those on higher incomes. But taxes on high incomes remain lower than almost anywhere else as part of the 1980s dispensation. In America, where taxes on the wealthy are higher but more easily avoidable, a different ethic pertains. The monied are expected to devote income on a systematic basis to community, social or charitable causes. Charitable foundations are commonplace.

In the UK, Tony Blair's mantra about rights going along with duties has simply not been applied to the top managers or to the many more in the City who draw equal or greater rewards. Only in the Jewish business community is systematic giving, rather than the mere social requirement of costly conspicuous consumption, understood as the obligation of wealth.

To ratify low taxes on high incomes, anyone who is a millionaire on the basis of the present value of their future income and capital gains should be giving heavily to the community. People worth £10 million should devote a systematic chunk of their income to social projects, whether charitable or private. Those worth £100 million should divert a big share of their income to a charitable foundation. Patronage is the proper alternative to incentive-sapping taxes.

Social inequality is, however, inherently a sideshow to the nonsense of business pay policies. The main failing is the apartheid between chasing quality in top management and applying only cost-saving to lesser employees. Business is simply not willing to pay extra for most of the skills that make firms work. British business pays most for accountants, but scrimps on marketing, engineering and technical skills, compared with our main competitors.

Do we not care about such skills or do we think that, in these areas, pay has nothing to do with quality? At the lower level, things are even worse. A study by Francis Green, of the University of Kent at Canterbury, presented to the Royal Economic Society this week, suggests that most non-specific skills attract no significant pay premium. Only the computer-literate score significantly, and that may well prove to be a transitional phase.

Worst of all, the CBI and individual bosses constantly complain that the education system fails to turn out enough people who are skilled in communicating, team working, making presentations, problem solving and the like. Yet Mr Green's extensive study found that industry offered no significant pay premium for such skills.

Managers do not seem to believe in market forces at this level. At board level they demand giants. Lower down they are happy with monkeys. No wonder our underlying growth rate is so low.

Tax cuts not all they are made out to be

FINANCE BILL: Alasdair Murray looks at the details and traces the Chancellor's sleight of hand

Has the Chancellor really reduced our taxes? Ever since Gordon Brown sat down at the end of his Budget day speech last month, the doubts have been growing about the real impact of the Budget. Mr Brown has appeared all too willing to tailor his message for the audience. Opposition politicians have seized on the inconsistencies, saying Mr Brown has no right to stake a claim as a tax-cutting champion.

The 1999 Finance Bill, which was published yesterday, provides an opportunity to finally draw some conclusions from the debate during the past month. The Bill, which turns Budget promises into legislation, is the last chance for Mr Brown to sneak in some nasties in the fine print and clarify some of the outstanding uncertainties.

In the event, the Bill proves an anti-climax, with Mr Brown appearing to resist the temptation to indulge in any further subterfuge. The majority of the 170-page document relates to often obscure and complex tax avoidance measures. Relatively minor tax reforms take up a disproportionate amount of space while centrepieces of the Budget speech, such as the introduction of the new 10p starting rate, are dealt with quickly and simply. Even the City accountants, always on the look-out for some hidden sub-clause which could cause their clients huge losses, admitted that there was little in the Bill which had not emerged during the Budget speech and the ensuing debate. "Disappointingly boring," was the City's refrain.

There is the occasional quirk. Boots, the high street pharmacy, may not be too pleased that the tax relief on bus services for employees only comes into effect from April 6, meaning they could face large back-taxes on the long-standing service at their Nottingham headquarters. The Bill contains legislation for the children's tax credit, even though the new system does not come into effect until April 2001. This raises the question why the Chancellor needs to wait so long to introduce one of the Budget's centrepiece ideas and also felt the need to deprive families of any tax relief at all during the "missing" year between the abolition of the married couple's allowance and the introduction of the new credit.

The Chancellor has also decided to keep a typically "prudent" grip on the 10p starting tax rate by changing the usual rules on the inflation-linked annual increase in the size of the band. Instead of rounding the rise upwards to the nearest £100, for the new 10p rate the Inland Revenue will only round up to the nearest £10 — saving the Treasury up to £100 million a year.

Yet these new elements represent small change as far as the Budget as a whole is concerned. The real dispute is not over what has eventually emerged in the Finance Bill itself but Mr Brown's apparently cavalier regard for the truth in the Budget speech itself and the debate that followed.

The Chancellor has adopted a two-pronged strategy in his desire to be considered a tax cutter. First he uses public perception — the headline grabbing moves such as the introduction of the new 10p tax band and the 1p cut on basic tax to 22p. There is no mention of the abolition of the existing broader 20p band and little reference to the fact that the 22p band only clicks in next year. More importantly, previously ignored tax changes such as the abolition of the dividend tax credit — which is only coming into effect next week raising £5.7 billion over the next three years — are completely ignored.

Then there are Mr Brown's Treasury figures. In the narrowly defined sense of the remainder of this Parliament he is able to demonstrate that taxes will fall. Yet as the Treasury Select Committee has made clear this relies on two dubious assumptions. The abolition of mortgage interest rate relief, worth some £2.75 billion a year to homeowners has been classified by the Treasury as a cut in spending rather than an increase in tax. The working families tax credit has, in contrast, been categorised as a tax cut when a number of organisations have insisted it should be treated as a rise in social security spending.

Without this sleight of hand, Mr Brown's tax-cutting claims are reduced to rubble. Remove these two anomalies and the tax burden is set to rise by £100 million across the remainder of this Parliament. Maurice Fitzpatrick, head of economics at Chantry Vellacott, calculates that taxes will have risen from 35.4 per cent of GDP to 37.6 per cent of GDP across the whole of the Parliament. That is a total tax increase of £21.5 billion or 7.7p on the basic rate of income tax.

These broad figures say little about the real impact on individuals. Various vulnerable groups are only now learning that the Chancellor has had his hand in their wallets while still talking about providing extra help.

Of course, this all might change. The Chancellor has at least one, probably two, more Budgets before the next election. He gave a nod and a wink at the Treasury Select Committee that there could be further tax cuts — provided the economy meets Treasury expectations. The trouble is that even if the Chancellor genuinely does cut our taxes, will anyone now believe him?



Gordon Brown before his Budget statement last month

Never mind the quality of speeches — feel the brevity

FINANCE BILL: James Landale on the history of Budget statements

The length of Budget statements has largely declined over the years and with it the amount of information given to MPs before Finance Bills are published.

Chancellors of the Exchequer in the 19th century could never be accused of under-informing the Commons.

Benjamin Disraeli delivered a Budget statement in 1852 that lasted for five hours, albeit with a short break. William Gladstone inevitably tried to go one better the following year and spoke continuously for four and three-quarter hours, a total of 35,000 words.

However, apart from a statistical blip in 1867 when Disraeli secured the record for the shortest Budget speech of 45 minutes, the duration has gradually reduced to an average of about an hour and a quarter.

While the amount of information that Chancellors give out in their Budget statements has declined, the scope of Finance Bills has increased: there is simply more money involved, more complex regulations and more government activity to cover.

Tony Blair once described Gordon Brown as his "Lloyd George", hinting that the two Chancellors were similarly redistributive and radical in their approach to public finance.

But analysis of the original "People's Budget" delivered by Lloyd George in 1909 shows the comparison has its limits. While Mr Brown might like to be brief in the Commons, his Welsh predecessor felt not such restriction to his loquacity.

Lloyd George's 1909 Budget speech lasted for an extraordinary four and a quarter hours — with an undoubtedly welcome half-hour interval.

One of the most radical and comprehensive Budget speeches ever, it introduced among other things the old age pension and a controversial "super tax" on the rich. Although Lloyd George was a Liberal, his Budget was as redistributive as any old Labour MP would like.

The subsequent Finance Bill — which the House of Lords blocked for two years — ran to 50 pages, with 96 clauses and six schedules.

In contrast, Gordon Brown's three Budgets have lasted respectively just 63 minutes, 64 minutes and 69 minutes. The Finance Bill published yesterday ran to more than 170 pages, with 129 clauses and 20 schedules. As if this was not enough, the Bill came with some explanatory notes more than 500 detailed pages long. And that is not to mention the so-called Red Book, a glossy outlining detailed changes

The only Tory in recent times to beat Mr Brown for brevity was Nigel (now Lord) Lawson who spoke for just 59 minutes in 1987.



Disraeli: shortest Budget



Gladstone: long-winded



Lloyd George: interval

Nut & Boat

ONE of the two traders suspended at GNI, the futures and options broker, after a dealing scandal has quietly restarted work on the trading floor. But there is no sign of the other, who is still under investigation.

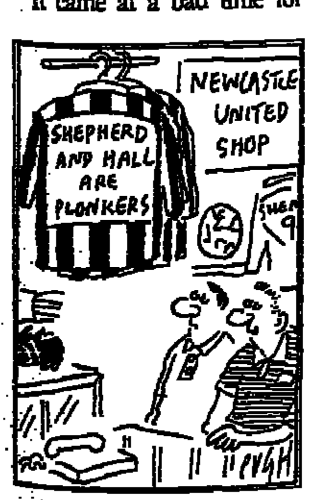
The scandal broke at Liffe, the futures trading market, a couple of weeks ago when a GNI client discovered a series of unauthorised trades had taken place on his account. One transaction alone has cost the client, thought to be an American bank, £200,000.

It came at a bad time for Liffe, which is nearing the end of its long-running inquiry into Refco Overseas, another broker. Meanwhile rumours persist at the exchange of the involvement of another big player in fraudulent trading.

Julian Rodgers-Coltman, GNI's deputy chief executive, said no client had been disadvantaged as a result of the affair. He also denied reports that the client in question had sacked his company in protest.

Justin King, one of the two suspended traders, has apparently been cleared and has returned to work. But the inquiry continues into the activities of the other, Lee Redican.

I hear that both have colourful nicknames on the trading floor, which is not known for its politically correct humour. Redican is known as "Nutter"; King is referred to as "Boat", apparently because of his striking resemblance to a Vietnamese refugee.



"Sales are down but

AS WE await the formal announcement of BP's bid for Arco today, I hear of some jokes doing the rounds at Amoco, the last "merger" victim of Sir John Browne at BP which might strike a chord at Arco. What do you call our new



What do you call our old chief executive? Sur-render. And what do you call our management in Chicago. Sur-plus to requirements.

And what's the British pronunciation of BP Amoco? BP — the Amoco is silent.

Spa partner

JUST in time for the flotation, a former vice-president of Goldman Sachs is spilling the beans on life at the American investment bank. *Goldman Sachs: The Culture of Success* is published in this country on May 6, and pretty awful it sounds, according to Lisa Endlich, who understandably left about four years ago and now makes her living as a writer.

She recalls a top management committee meeting which, according to the written schedule she was issued, would start at 3pm on Friday. And finish at 3pm on Saturday, with a minimal time set aside for sleep.

But there was one allowance made for those not entirely wedded to their jobs. "The health spa opens at 6am in case you want to work out before breakfast," the memo added.

THE penchant among merchant bankers for living out their James Bond fantasies by giving takeover targets silly codenames will some day cause someone grief, because they are becoming easier to spot. I hear that the names in Stanley Leisure's takeover bid for Capital Corporation were Stake and Chips (St...anley and C...apital).

Roux the day

IT BEING March 31 as I write, there are some awfully silly stories being prodded my way. I think we can safely discount suggestions that Albert Roux at Le Gavroche is planning his own fast food takeaway service, to be named Eat Vite.

Likewise, it is unlikely that researchers at the Swiss Institute for Neurochemical Research, on discovering a new part of the brain, have coincidentally proved that investment fund managers have no sense of humour. My schoolboy German suggests that Professors Vogelhirn and Drekkenkopf, should they be contactable, are not going to enlighten us further.

Which leaves the investment software company whose product, offered to me free and based on astrological trading forecasts, will track market trades both past and future. "Live interaction with psychic trading experts," it says.

Very droll; but I have heard much sillier suggestions made in all seriousness. These being the last days of the millennium, I suppose this year's crop of April Fools will have some difficulty in surpassing reality.

MARTIN WALLER

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Pulling a fast one: stories that Albert Roux plans a takeaway can be discounted

David S Smith in packing alliance

David S Smith is linking up with Kappa Packaging, of The Netherlands, and Saica, of Spain, to launch a Europe-wide packaging alliance to serve multinational customers.

The three companies have agreed to provide customers across Europe with standardised packaging and supply arrangements as part of an alliance to be named InpAct.

Smith supplies corrugated packaging for manufacturers in the food, health, automotive and electronic sectors from plants in the UK, Germany, France, Italy and Poland. The alliance with Kappa will add manufacuring capability in the Benelux countries and Germany, Norway, and the Czech Republic, while Saica has facilities in Spain and Portugal.

Smith said that it was a commercial arrangement with no change of ownership. "Multinationals that market global brands want a one-stop supply of packaging," it said.

Telspec's loss

Telspec, the troubled telecoms equipment manufacturer, yesterday said that recent problems had been solved, "but at a great cost to profitability". It reported a pre-tax loss of £5.3 million for the year to December 31, against profits of £4 million the previous year. Sales fell to £51.8 million, from £53.1 million, with Telspec blaming its problems on economic turmoil in Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. It said that its core business remained "fundamentally sound", and that it had undergone a management shake-up in the past year. An unchanged 0.1p final dividend is due on June 1.

Halstead ahead

James Halstead, the commercial flooring group that also sells Driza-Bone outdoor clothing, lifted pre-tax profits 5 per cent, to £3.65 million, in its half year to December 31 on sales up 7 per cent, to £38 million. Earnings per share were 10.31p, up from 9.92p. The interim payout is 3.875p, up 3.3 per cent. The shares rose 4p to 174p.



Gate receipts from the fans account for 50 per cent of the turnover at Newcastle United, where Ruud Gullit took over as manager last August

Ticket price rises will drive fans away, soccer clubs told

Leeds chief delivers warning on players' wages along with higher profits, says Paul Armstrong

PREMIER League football clubs are in grave danger of losing fans if they keep trying to recoup soaring players' wages through higher ticket prices, Peter Ridsdale, the chairman of Leeds Sporting, said yesterday.

Mr Ridsdale, whose company owns Leeds United, said rises of 20 to 30 per cent a year in players' wages were unsustainable and supporters would not be prepared to shoulder the costs.

"The industry has to have some recognition of its costs versus its income," he said.

"There has to be a point at which people stop and look at what we are doing to ourselves and realise that a number of clubs are on the threshold."

Mr Ridsdale's warning came a day after Manchester United revealed that it would charge an extra £2 a ticket next season, a rise of 14 per cent, to help to fund its rapidly growing wages bill.

David Gill, Manchester United's finance director, said rising wages for players was one of the most challenging issues facing the club. He defended the ticket price increase on the grounds that it would make the club's tickets only the ninth most expensive in the Premier League. This ranking excluded the price rises to be announced by rival clubs for next season.

Leeds Sporting, which is yet to decide its ticket price increase for next season, revealed yesterday that it had made an interim pre-tax profit of £1.9 million, up from £11,000 previously.

Turnover was 30 per cent higher at £17.75 million, but no dividend was declared.

Newcastle United also released its interim results yesterday, saying pre-tax profit was down 23 per cent to £5.6 million, although this included the adverse impact of changes in accounting standards. Turnover fell 19 per cent to £25.2 million and the interim dividend was steady at 0.6p.

Mr Ridsdale said Leeds was continuing to diversify its business to help to cope with rising costs.

It had started three new businesses — a travel agency, a financial services group and a publishing company — and was considering several other initiatives.

The total increase in players' wages was restricted to 6 per cent, although he said this could rise to as much as 11 per cent for the full year depending on bonus payments. Mr Ridsdale also pointed out that the contracts of eight of Leeds's first team players expired within two to three years.

He said the huge increase in earnings from television rights in recent years, which now account for 26.6 per cent of Leeds's turnover, had flowed to players rather than shareholders.

"What happens in 2001 if BSkyB [the satellite broadcaster] say they don't want to back the Premier League?" Mr Ridsdale asked. "If that happens, two-thirds of the clubs will be under significant financial pressure.

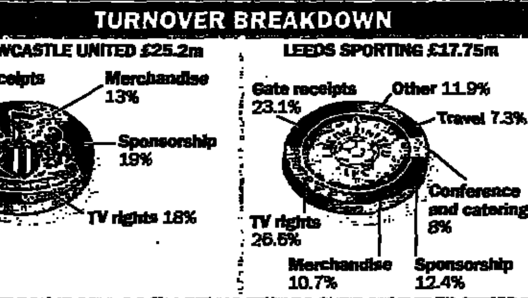
"Everybody who could get sucked into the relegation battle in the Premier League is scared stiff and even Manchester United would recognise the pressure."

Mr Ridsdale said the onus was on individual clubs to deal with the issue because there would not be a collective approach.

Freddie Fletcher, Newcastle's chief executive, said he saw no reason why profits from television rights would not continue to grow strongly, saying "pay-per-view would become common place".

"If you look at BSkyB it has been mainly driven by football and I see no reason why that would not continue," he said.

Mr Fletcher said Newcastle was experiencing strong demand for the extra season tickets that would become available as the result of the expansion in capacity at St James's Park from 36,800 to 51,000.



Mitsubishi to shed 10% of workforce

By Martin Barrow

MITSUBISHI, the Japanese electronics company, is to cut its workforce by 14,500 over the next three years.

The cutbacks, which represent about 10 per cent of the company's global workforce, have been forced on Mitsubishi by the slump in demand for its products, particularly in Asia.

Mitsubishi, one of Japan's largest consolidated electronics manufacturers, makes everything from semiconductors to nuclear power plants.

Mitsubishi has been struggling with huge losses due to falling semiconductor prices and weak demand for consumer products such as refrigerators in Japan.

The company expects a group pre-tax loss of 80 billion yen (£414 million) for the financial year that ended yesterday. Mitsubishi hopes the cost-cutting measures will help it boost its group pre-tax profit to Y120 billion by March 2002.

Mitsubishi plans to cut 8,400 jobs in Japan by the end of March 2002 and lose 6,100 jobs at overseas subsidiaries.

Although the company did not specify which overseas operations will be closed, the plan raises doubts about the future of a number of its plants in the UK.

In April 1998 it closed a television factory in Haddington, East Lothian, with the loss of 500 jobs. It also shed 350 jobs at its plant in computer components and assembly plant in Gourock, Renfrewshire, and cut 25 sales and administration jobs at its UK head office in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, which employs 395 people.

The company presently employs an additional 720 people at an air-conditioning plant and video recorder manufacturer in Livingstone, Lothian.

Layoffs have become more common in Japan due to the long economic slump but are still rare at top firms such as Mitsubishi, where employees are hired with an implicit guarantee of a job for life. However, NEC and Sony recently announced job cuts on a similar scale.

Alpha Airports cuts dividend

By Martin Barrow

SHARES of Alpha Airports fell sharply yesterday after the airport services and retailing company cut its annual dividend following a decline in 1998.

The shares fell 8p to 62½p after Alpha announced a cut in the total dividend to 3p a share from 5.34p, with a final 1.16p after what Kevin Abbott, chief executive, said had been a demanding year.

Underlying pre-tax profits fell to £25 million from £28.7 million, largely due to the anticipated expiry of the duty-free retail management contract at London's Heathrow airport. A £61.3 million fall in turnover to £640.9 million was also attributed to the end of the contract.

During the year Alpha sought offers for its retail business to release funds to invest in its other businesses of catering and ground services.

However, in the absence of what the company described as "an acceptable offer" it decided to retain the business and develop it through the period of uncertainty brought about by the expected abolition of duty-free and tax-free allowances within the European Union.

The aborted sale gave rise to a charge of £2.1 million. In addition, Alpha took an exceptional charge of £5.9 million against the restructuring of the duty-free operation in Orlando, Florida.

Alpha's retail profits fell to £7.8 million from £12.9 million and Mr Abbott said a further decline was inevitable if duty free is abolished in the EU in June as planned. Profits this year will also be adversely affected by the expriy of the London Gatwick management contract, also in June.

ACCOUNTANCY

Outsourcing is the in thing

Brian Birkenhead says companies should not be afraid to contract out treasury operations

Outsourcing financial services is becoming big business. Not only does the customer benefit from a professional approach, but cost savings result.

However, many financial directors (FDs) are reluctant even to consider outsourcing their treasury operations since they regard treasury management as a core activity of the company, the source of competitive advantage, best done internally and not to be trusted to others. Some may fear that their boardroom colleagues will think less of them if they need to "contract out" these activities. Although very large organisations will continue to have substantial internal treasury departments, the medium to smaller-sized company may never have had an internal treasury and now finds it increasingly difficult to cope without one. Outsourcing provides a new and attractive alternative to meet the need for specialist skills.

When faced with the latest whiz-bang derivative product from the company's banker, the finance director is well advised to be guided by the old adage, "If you don't understand how it works, then don't do it". Rocket scientists with PhDs working with a bank's computers are brilliant at inventing ever more complex product, but they tend to be less expert at explaining the full implications and risks. FDs and treasurers have to devote much time and effort to achieve a level of understanding. Accountants find that their system cannot cope with the complexity of the products on offer and worry about control. Financial reporting standards are going to require frequent market valuations of financial instruments, and some products from banks pose real problems of valuation. Some FDs feel that there must be a better way of ensuring proper governance and control while not denying themselves the benefits of what may be genuinely useful products.

As a result, finance directors are beginning to consider outsourcing treasury management as a way of overcoming these difficulties, and of seeking efficiencies, cost savings, risk reduction and enhanced information from specialists.

Too frequently, the consequences of poor treasury management are not identified in the financial reporting of the company and so, rather than tackle this challenging area, the FD leaves it well alone. But others accept that their training may prepare them inadequately and embrace the idea of outsourcing.



Brian Birkenhead says everyone can benefit from outsourcing

But how does it work? The kind of service envisaged here is similar to that provided by fund managers to the company's pension fund. FDs are comfortable in outsourcing this activity and should be equally comfortable with a similar service managing the company's, rather than the pension fund's, cash resources. A specialist provider can deliver not only the specialist technical knowledge, but also benefit from the economics of specialisation, and should outperform in-house execution of treasury transactions at lower cost. Importantly, control can be enhanced because the provider can justify investment in complex dealing software and technology. Dealing is undertaken from screens showing the current market rates, telephone conversations are recorded, and deals are automatically confirmed to the correspondent bank and written to the inhouse system by an individual remote from the transaction.

The lines of communication between the FD and his outsourced treasury have to be based on a detailed service level agreement. The provider will be required to deliver a measurable service demonstrating value for money, at demonstrably lower cost than the in-house alternative. Policy, objectives and authorities for discretionary action must be clear. The company's cash needs will be set out flexibly. Meetings between the FD and the service provider will be regular and ensure that outside events can be dealt with easily, on the basis of accurate and up-to-date information.

The risk of the rogue trader will always remain, but the process of creating a service level agreement will be a catalyst in creating clear treasury policies and authorities for action. Moreover, the service provider will have more staff and can ensure complete segregation of duties, unlike most corporate treasuries.

Brian Birkenhead is a former chairman of the Hundred Group of Finance Directors and group finance director of National Power

Clients will suffer in this clash of egos

IT IS A wonderful spectacle. After all these years of the great accounting and professional services firms arguing that a partnership ethos meant that they could do things differently, they are all falling into the corporate trap. Strategy is driven by ego.

Take the latest move in the convoluted global dance. The chairman of KPMG in Canada, having given his partners in Canada and around the world a written assurance that he hadn't done a deal to sell the firm to Arthur Andersen, promptly does so. Meanwhile, KPMG partners around the world are still aghast at their American chairman's insistence that the American firm should flog off a large chunk of the ownership of their consulting business, despite the fact that regulatory pressures mean that nothing can happen until the end of the year at the earliest.

All this started at a fateful meeting in mid-October 1997 at KPMG in London. Steve Butler, who heads up the American firm, told the rest of the partners present that he had done a deal with the American chief of Ernst & Young to merge the firms. And the rest of them could shape up and join in or, to put it politely, not. Huge animosities between America and Europe built up. The deal fell to bits.

However, it was unsettling. It meant that parts of the KPMG empire were always likely to be prone to falling out of the fold. Then KPMG, belatedly, started trying to wrest back the initiative. Colin Sharman moved up to become global chief with a brief to create a proper world firm.

ROBERT BRUCE

Meanwhile the KPMG Canada firm, which has always been a bit of a loose cannon, started wobbling. In the past, it has been an affiliate of almost every big accounting firm there is. And its chairman, Spencer Lanthier, is not noted for being emollient. "As a firm, they had a talent to get up people's noses," one partner put it this week.

Sharman's plan was to bring Canada into a regional firm covering all of the Americas and, slightly confusingly, Australia and New Zealand. But Lanthier didn't like the idea. He thought it would take too long and be too costly. More significantly, it would threaten his empire. KPMG Canada has a huge number of offices and partners. Under the KPMG plan, many of these would go. As Sharman put it in a memo to his fellow partners, Canada was "over-officed and over-partnered". It has more partners than the UK firm, but with a third of the fee income.

However, it seems odd, if that is what you are trying to protect, to dive into the arms of Arthur Andersen. Andersen, of all firms, is quite ruthless in sorting out its organisation.

In short, what you have is a mess. And you have senior people in a variety of firms around the globe snarling at each other. And you have a Canadian chairman stepping out of what he fondly believes to be the frying pan into something that he believes is not the fire. His fellow partners, who have to vote on the decision across the next week, may take a different view.

This is a crucial time for the big professional services firms. They are growing at the most astonishing rate. They dominate their market. But they are losing their grip on their own organisations. Ego, as ever, is the problem. In America, in particular, both Ernst & Young and KPMG are run by chairmen who see them as personal fiefdoms rather than full partnerships.

However, the greater problem is probably that of re-organising. There was a tendency to say that, with fees pouring in through the roof, the organisation could take care of itself. And that means that with Sharman trying to get a grip on the KPMG world structure, there are changes to be made that seem harsh only because they should have been attended to years ago. Rumour has it that the penalty clause for a firm leaving the organisation is being shifted up to a punitive 100 per cent of net fees. Until now it has been a somewhat feeble 3 per cent. You can see how a change of that magnitude, realistic though it is, could bring about resentment.

The firms argue that their internal problems are ring-fenced from the rest of the firm. Client care does not suffer. Arthur Andersen says that it has a 12-man team working on the messy arbitration process in its divorce proceedings with its sister firm, Andersen Consulting. So everyone else in the empire can simply get on with their work unclouded by worry or apprehension.

This is nonsense. All businesses take their cue and their culture from the top. If they are run by quarrelling robber barons, it will inevitably be clients who suffer in the end.

That's Life but not as we audit

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

THE partners of KPMG Canada, who seem poised to merge with arch-rivals Arthur Andersen, have never been very good at getting on with their fellow partners around the world. Take the Standard Life affair. It was an extremely complicated dispute. But in essence KPMG Canada lived in a building in Toronto owned by Standard Life, the Scottish life assurance group. KPMG back in Scotland did the Standard Life audit. KPMG Canada fell out with their landlords. And amid the ensuing acrimony, KPMG in Scotland, blameless in the affair, had the audit taken away from them. "We had held it for over 100 years," recalled one plaintive partner.

Partick-ular gift

LAST week's annual conference run by the Scots ICA was chaired with great aplomb and impromptu wit by Robert Smith, chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management. The conference was heavy on topics such as "Sustaining a world-class performance" and "Creating a world-class company". But Smith's heart is elsewhere. At the end of the event, the organisers gave him a gift in thanks for his efforts. It was a Partick Thistle shirt autographed by the full team. Partick currently languish, despite their support from the feistier end of the Scottish accountancy profession, halfway down the Scottish second division.

Gentle Touche

THE great shake-up among accountancy firms around the world offers new opportunities for people to cement their leadership on their firms. Having been in the hot seat for only a matter of weeks, the new chairman of the American end of Deloitte & Touche has made his mark. Noting that KPMG Canada is in the process of dropping off into the Arthur Andersen fold, he has let it be known that heads will roll if the next chunk of KPMG to be lifted does not end up at Deloitte & Touche.

ROBERT BRUCE

Go online with that job application



It used to be difficult to apply for a new job while still doing your old one. Flicking through job advertisements, printing out CVs, and posting them to rival organisations was not something you could realistically do under your boss's nose.

The Internet has changed all that. Employees can now simply access a rival company's recruitment page on the Internet and apply for a job within minutes — while still giving the impression of being hard at work. This may sound like bad news for employers, but they can easily use the same technology to their advantage.

So far, companies that have led the way in Internet recruitment have typically been in the US technology industry: hardly surprising, given the way such companies have to fight over a limited supply of highly skilled professionals.

One of those companies is Cisco Systems, the US telecoms equipment company, which claims to take 55 per cent of all its job applications over the Internet. This obviously reduces the cost of acquiring staff — headhunters and recruitment agencies become less important, for example — but also has many other, less obvious, benefits.

John Chambers, Cisco's chief executive, says he can use software to monitor exactly where job applications are coming from. If Cisco receives a flood of simultaneous online applications from a competitor, it usually means something important is about to happen, Mr Chambers says.

"I know what's going on at our competitors — who's reorganising and who's concerned about their quarterly performance — just by the inquiries I get into my jobs database," he says. "People are just beginning to realise the power that this brings you."

In the US, it is also becoming common for companies to hold preliminary job interviews online. Some companies already use software that can ask questions of job applicants based on their previous answers. This eliminates the need for CVs and also the need for routine interviews, which take up valuable management time.

Companies in California's Silicon Valley are already convinced that, as computer networks speed up, many job applications will be conducted entirely online. After completing preliminary interviews via a website, applicants could simply be interviewed via a video conference.

Obviously, this rather impersonal form of interviewing is never completely going to replace face-to-face meetings, particularly for more senior jobs. However, in industries where there is high staff turnover, and where employees can work anywhere, Internet recruitment is certain to become popular.

Meanwhile, employers who have no job application forms on the Internet should beware: they will be missing a great opportunity to lower their recruitment costs, and to attract the kind of young, intelligent people who already see the Internet more as a medium for business than pleasure.

Employers should also bear in mind that companies such as Cisco are only too happy to monitor the job satisfaction of employees at rival companies. To not return the favour seems almost suicidal.

☐ MEL GIBSON'S film distribution company, Icon, this week said it had appointed two senior executives, Elizabeth Draper, who will become head of distribution, and David Woodward, who will become head of sales. Ms Draper, who previously worked at Pathé, the French film group, will manage theatrical, video and television sales and marketing. Mr Woodward, who previously worked at Twentieth Century Fox, will be responsible for setting up a sales team at Icon.

☐ THE prospect of a worldwide mobile phone standard being introduced over the next few years moved closer this week when the Chinese Government hinted that it would back the technological standards developed in the West. The move comes after a deal last week between Qualcomm, of the US, and Ericsson, of Sweden, whereby the two mobile phone handset manufacturers cross-licensed their technology.

CHRIS AYRES

Costain back in black after four-year losses of £400m

COSTAIN, the refocused engineering and construction group, yesterday returned to the black after four years of heavy losses.

The company reported pre-tax profits of £500,000 for 1998 compared with a loss of £7.4 million the previous year. Over the previous four years Costain's losses amounted to more than £400 million.

John Armitt, the chief executive, said the group has become more selective about which projects it tenders for in its drive for increased profitability. With the focus on increasing margins there was a substantial fall in sales to £392 million (from £576 million in 1997).

"We're simply not interested in turnover without profit. Our priority is to build a business that can respond quickly and efficiently with minimal risks," Mr Armitt said.

The company is also reorganising to create three divisions from its existing six, including the merger of its civil engineering and construction operations into one UK business. The other two divisions will cover its international operations and its oil, gas and processing businesses.

Costain said the UK building market remained strong during 1998, despite the economic slowdown. However, the UK's civil engineering business was "less buoyant" because of a reduction in Britain's roadbuilding programme. Last year Costain finished work on the controversial Newbury bypass project.

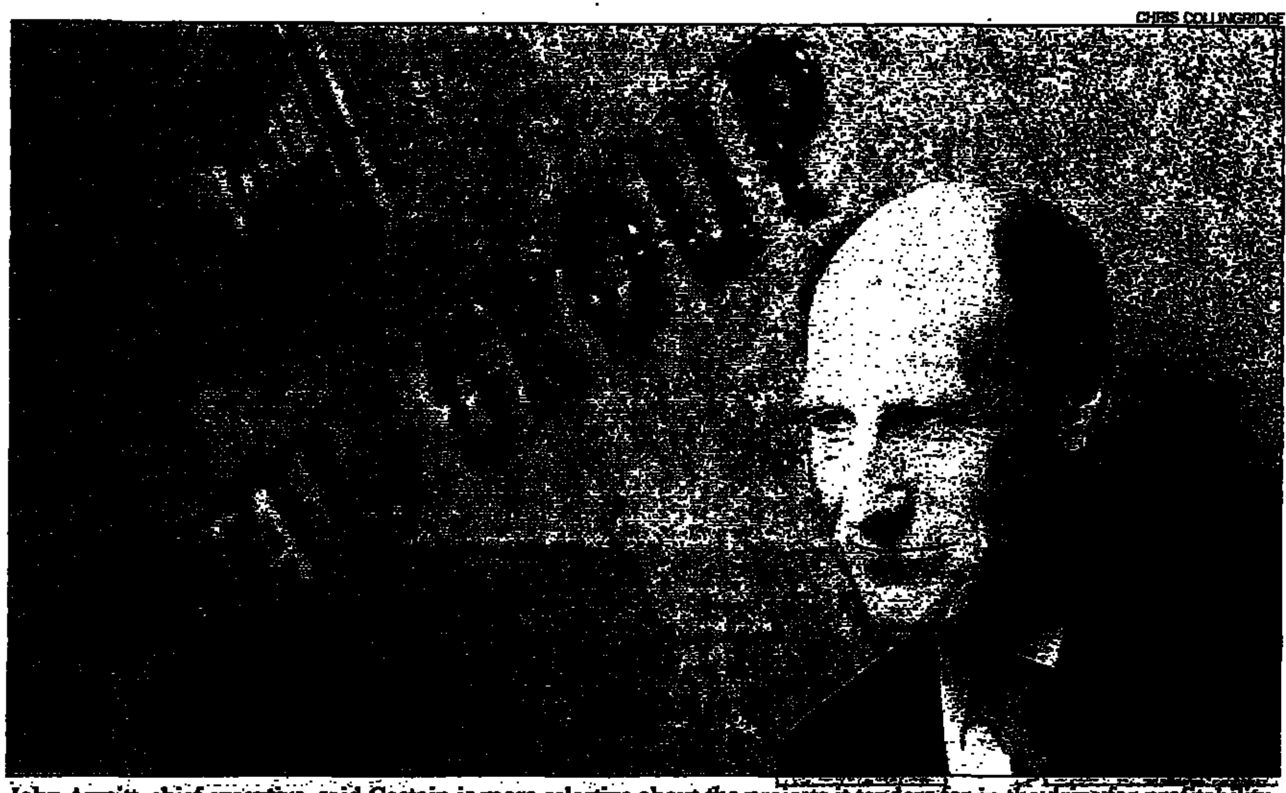
Mr Armitt said that the company felt optimistic about the opportunities being presented in the rail sector, with new Railtrack schemes and London Underground awards to be announced in the near future.

Costain is currently working on the London Bridge section of the Jubilee Line extension, refurbishment at Waterloo station and stabilisation work at Embankment station.

The group has also recently completed work on the Hong Kong airport but said it is looking to keep its exposure to the South-East Asian market to a minimum until it sees clear signs of recovery. Contracts are also under way at Heathrow, Gatwick, Liverpool and Manchester airports.

In recent months Costain has won five joint-venture contracts worth £100 million, with Skanska, the Swedish group which has a 7.6 per cent stake in the company. Costain says it has five more "significant" joint-venture contracts to be announced this year.

Year-end net debt rose £24 million to £61 million. Mr Armitt said no dividend was foreseeable in the near future. Costain shares closed up 1p at 18½p.


CHRIS COLLINGRIDGE
John Armitt, chief executive, said Costain is more selective about the projects it tenders for in the drive for profitability

SBS and CME join up in £382m takeover

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

SBS BROADCASTING has agreed to take control of CME in a $615 million (£382 million) all-share deal that will create a new force in free-to-air television in Europe.

Together, the two companies have 18 television stations and 12 radio stations in 13 countries serving a total potential audience of more than 150 million.

Both companies, in their own ways, detected the opportunity to launch advertising-financed broadcasting stations in deregulating European markets using mainly American money.

Harry Sloan, chairman and chief executive of SBS, who will be co-chairman and chief executive of the expanded company, yesterday said: "We have a proven formula for building successful broadcasting operations in newly commercialised markets."

The new co-chairman of the enlarged group, which will still be called SBS, is Ronald Lauder, the moving force behind CME. Mr Lauder yesterday said that, as a result of the deal, he would become a major shareholder in SBS. He said: "I intend to further increase my investment in the combined company by purchasing a very substantial number of SBS shares in the open market from time to time at prevailing market prices."

SBS, which has television stations in The Netherlands, Belgium, Scandinavia, Hungary and Slovenia, had revenues of $350 million last year. Its net loss was $33.7 million, reduced from $43.8 million in 1997.

CME's television networks are in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania and the Ukraine. CME last year had net revenues of $243.7 million and a net loss from continuing operations of $81.1 million — with a total net loss of $125 million, including losses from discontinued operations.

Last year, on a pro forma basis, the two companies, whose shares trade on America's Nasdaq exchange, produced $594 million in combined revenues.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Xenova sells core chemical library

XENOVA, one of the pioneers of UK biotechnology, has sold the core of its original business, including its NatChem library of 80,000 compounds extracted from fungi, bacteria and plants. Xenova will receive £1 million this year and perhaps another £4 million in stock and other payments. More importantly, the move will stop the cash drain from Xenova Discovery, which lost £5.6 million last year. David Oxlade, who replaced founder Louis Nisbet as the Slough firm's chief executive last year, said Xenova would continue to have access to the NatChem library to identify new drug candidates. He said: "I am delighted. This is a key component of the strategy outlined last year."

TerraGen Diversity, a small Canadian biotech firm, will take over Xenova Discovery's facilities in Slough and its 30 staff. It will also take on its collaborations with Warner-Lambert and Bristol-Myers Squibb, the US pharmaceutical groups. Mr Oxlade plans to sell or find a partner for MetaXen, its loss-making Californian arm. Hopes for Xenova's cancer drugs have helped its shares rise from 37½p to 86½p since the start of the year.

Wine Lodges decision

YATES Brothers Wine Lodges yesterday became the latest pub retailer to confirm that its outlets will remain open for the millennium celebrations on New Year's Eve. Staff at the group's 114 outlets, some 89 of which operate under its core Yates's Wine Lodge brand, will be paid double and receive a £100 bonus. Yates took its decision after a survey found that only 6 per cent of people have made firm plans on where they will see in the new year. Its move is in contrast to JD Wetherspoon which has decided to close its pubs at 8pm on New Year's Eve.

US website star debut

PRICELINE.COM, an Internet site where customers bid for airline tickets and hotel rooms, became the latest US high-tech success when its newly listed shares soared more than 500 per cent. The company, promoted by the actor William Shatner, of *Star Trek* fame, went where no initial public offering has gone before when it shot up from a $16 opening to $86 a share. Despite never having made a profit, the fledgeling Connecticut-based company was valued at $11.5 billion within minutes of listing of the Nasdaq stock exchange in New York.

Johnston up by 43%

JOHNSTON GROUP bucked the trend in Britain's engineering sector to lift pre-tax profits 43.7 per cent to £6.4 million in 1998 despite competitive trading conditions and the adverse impact of the strong pound. Profits rose to £6.4 million from £4.5 million on turnover that fell to £123.8 million from £150.8 million after the sale of Johnston Construction. Earnings were 33.53p a share, a rise of 52.2 per cent. A final dividend of 8p a share makes a total of 12p, an increase of 6.3 per cent. The shares rose 7½p to 322½p yesterday.

British Fittings in red

BRITISH FITTINGS GROUP, the engineering company based in Birmingham, is holding the total dividend at 5.1p a share for 1998 after maintaining pre-tax profits at £4.6 million, despite a difficult trading environment. Turnover from continuing businesses rose 4.5 per cent to £78 million. During the year the company sold its high pressure water jetting business, which gave rise to a goodwill charge of £5.65 million and resulted in an overall pre-tax loss of £8 million.

Bentalls suffers

BENTALLS, the department stores group, suffered a fall in underlying pre-tax profits to £2.65 million last year from £3.4 million, caused by the difficult trading environment and disruption arising from the refurbishment of stores at Kingston, Surrey and Lakeside, Essex. Adjusted earnings fell to 6.08p a share from 11.42p. The total dividend is 3.95p (3.85p) a share, with a final 3.25p. Trading had made a good start to the current year, with like-for-like sales up 5.9 per cent.

QS restores payout

QS HOLDINGS, the discount clothing retailer with 123 stores in the south of England and the Midlands, is restoring the dividend at 0.5p a share for 1998 after reporting a recovery in pre-tax profits to £1.09 million from £280,000 in 1997. Earnings were 1.58p a share, compared with a 0.07p loss previously. *The company said that it enjoyed a 7.4 per cent rise in like-for-like sales last year, with sales growing 9 per cent so far in the current year.* The shares rose 3p to 30p yesterday.

TAb looks for fresh rescue deal

BY PAUL DURMAN

THERAPEUTIC Antibodies, the small Anglo-American firm saved by a £11.5 million cash injection last November, is already seeking a fresh rescue after the termination of its development deal with GD Searle.

Stuart Wallis, its chairman, who formerly ran Fisons, is pursuing a merger deal that would value TAb's shares at close to their current value of 5½p. The company is also exploring disposals and all other financing options.

TAb's work with Searle, the pharmaceuticals arm of Monsanto, ended in January when two Searle drugs intended to prevent arterial blood clots failed in trials.

The Searle contract, secured only last year, was an important prop of the last refinancing — which, TAb then said, would provide sufficient funds to launch its products and develop a sustainable business.

TAb, based in Nashville in the US but quoted in London, lost $15.9 million (£9.8 million) in 1998, slightly less than the year before. It ended the year with cash of only $7.8 million. Mr Wallis insisted that TAb had a promising future.

Royal & SunAlliance Danish bid snubbed

BY MARTIN BARROW

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE, the UK insurance company, has been snubbed in its attempt to launch an audacious £870 million counterbid in Scandinavia.

Codan Group, the Danish insurer that is 70 per cent owned by Royal & SunAlliance, where Bob Mendelsohn is chief executive, has made a tentative bid approach to Tryg-Baltica, Denmark's largest non-life insurer.

However, yesterday Tryg-Baltica said it had no intention of entering talks with Codan, preferring instead to go ahead with an agreed merger with Unidanmark, which was announced early last month.

Codan's offer of DKr10 billion compares with Unidanmark's bid of DKr8.8 billion, which many analysts in Copenhagen believe undervalues the business. Unidanmark owns Denmark's second largest commercial bank.

In a statement, the board of Try-Baltica said: "It is the board's unanimous, unaltered view that the proposed merger with Unidanmark, on the agreed terms and conditions . . . will still be to the best for the long-term interests of the shareholders, the customers and the employees."

At the end of 1998 Codan's balance sheet stood at DKr64.6 billion, compared with Tryg-Baltica's DKr72.5 billion.

Shareholders of Tryg-Baltica and Unidanmark are set to meet on April 13 to vote on their proposed merger.


Mendelsohn: approach

AG Barr suffers bad weather effect

BY ROBERT COLE
CITY CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN BARR, chairman of the Scottish soft drinks company AG Barr, said the company is still suffering after last summer's unseasonably cool weather affected sales.

He said that the impact of the cold weather on sales late in 1998 dragged on into the new year. Mr Barr said "the worst British summer for some 40 years" was seen last year.

As a result, profits at Barr, the maker of the Irn Bru fizzy drink, stood still. The company, which famously advertises its Irn Bru as being "made in Scotland, from girders" made nearly £12 million of pre-tax profit in the 12 months to the end of January.

Comparison with the previous period is complicated because Barr changed its year end, but in the 15 months to 31 January 1998, it made £14.4 million pre-tax. Annualised profits figures are broadly unchanged.

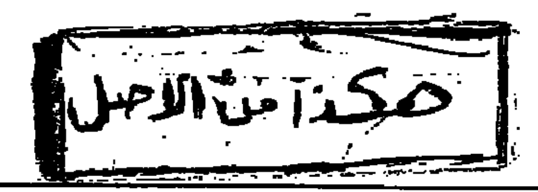
However, the company said that turnover for the 52 weeks to January 31, 1999 fell 3 per cent compared with the 52 weeks to January 1998. It added that sales in the first seven weeks of the new financial year are 2 per cent below 1998 figures. Mr Barr blamed the fall on declining sales of orange squash for the supermarkets' own brand product. He said the supermarkets found alternative suppliers who were prepared to sell for prices which Barr believed were unacceptably low.

Mr Barr said the company's market share of fizzy drinks in Scotland was about the same as for Coca-Cola. He said the group's priority was to sell more Irn Bru south of the border. He added that sales of Irn Bru continued to grow in its small Russian enterprise, despite the economic turmoil there.

Barr's total dividend for the 12 months to January 1999 is 18.25p. It paid 21p in respect of the previous 15-month period.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
ACM INVESTMENTS LTD				
0171 470 0100				
Short Dtd Gilt	139.30	140.90	+ 0.10	.
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8477	0.8564	+ 0.11	.
Gilt Income	56.30	56.16†	+ 0.11	5.40
Gilt Growth	100.80	102.50	+ 0.30	
Sterling Bond	56.26	57.26†	- 0.17	5.50
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7000				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	147.97	157.89	+ 0.21	
-do- NAV to Jan 19	145.58	145.58		
UK Equity Safeguard	118.49	126.73	+ 0.10	3.18
-do- NAV to Mar 19	116.050	116.0506	..	
US Eqy Safeguard	97.79	103.89	+ 0.51	
Cash	956.17	960.95		4.50
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	447.68	476.26	+ 2.87	1.22
UK Small Cos	98.41	103.11	+ 0.03	0.35
FTSE 250 Index	111.95	119.74	+ 0.08	1.96
Geared UK Index	#25.707	#27.137	+ 0.21	4.00
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	87.98	90.94	+ 0.08	5.78
Monthly Inc	44.03	47.10†	- 0.17	8.56
International Funds				
American Gen	391.87	414.22	- 1.40	
American Strat	180.23	192.24	- 1.07	
JG US Index	#30.972	#32.630	+ 0.21	4.50
European Gen	438.54	463.60	+ 2.45	0.09
European Strat	207.63	222.07	+ 1.62	.
Japan Gen	118.38	124.87	+ 0.53	
Asia Pacific	66.06	70.62	+ 0.06	1.79
Pacific Strat	95.52	102.16	+ 0.17	
Greater China	162.74	174.08	+ 0.50	
Latin America	68.90	73.69	+ 1.35	
Int Growth	201.94	215.53	+ 0.94	
Balanced Exempt	187.01	193.79	- 0.41	
Global Strategy	50.56	54.07	- 0.17	
AXA SUN LIFE FUND MGRS LTD				
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0000				
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trust				
Balanced Acc	86.92	92.47	+ 0.52	1.46
Balanced Inc	78.09	83.08	+ 0.48	1.46
Brit Excell	139.50	148.50	+ 1.60	1.90
Brit Fndmtls Acc	170.00	180.80		3.97
Brit Fndmtls Inc	105.40	112.10		3.97
Europe	573.60	610.20†	+ 4.70	0.26
General Acc	1023.00	1088.00†	+11.00	2.10
General Inc	812.80	863.90†	- 8.60	2.10
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	370.00	385.10†	+ 0.90	5.23
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	104.80	110.70†	+ 0.30	5.23
Global Opps	140.60	149.50	+ 0.10	0.22
Higher Inc Acc #	102.40		+ 1.30	
Higher Inc Inc #	102.40	.	+ 1.30	
Japan Acc	39.36	41.87	+ 0.05	
Nth America	570.60	607.00	- 3.70	
Pac Basin Acc	291.80	310.50	- 0.50	0.67
UK Growth Acc	709.10	754.30	+ 6.00	1.76
UK Growth Inc	439.20	467.30	+ 3.80	1.78
AXA Sun Life Trusts				
Discretionary	69.64	74.08	+ 0.83	
Extra Inc Inc #	102.00		- 0.30	5.56
High Yld Inc	125.90	134.00†		2.46
Inc & Gth Inc	125.10	132.70	- 1.30	1.88
Pacific Grth Port	35.12	37.37†	- 0.01	0.65
UK Income Inc	88.49	94.08	+ 0.73	1.82
UK Smaller Cos ‡	185.20		- 0.30	
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	158.30	168.00†	- 0.50	5.30
High Inc Equity	252.70	268.80	+ 1.50	3.61
Worldwide Bond	283.70	300.90	+ 2.00	3.82
American Growth	685.30	731.40	- 1.80	0.19
Asian Pacific	208.10	221.40	+ 5.00	0.56
Assets & Earnings	395.40	420.60	- 4.10	1.77
Euro Capital Acc	296.10	315.00	+ 2.90	0.23
Extra Inc	41.04	43.83†	+ 0.05	7.19
General	354.70	377.30†	- 4.00	2.63
Global Opps	83.71	89.06	+ 1.20	0.35
Japan	96.63	103.20	+ 0.80	
Managed Inc	57.49	61.16†	- 0.10	4.17
Mastertrust	211.80	225.30	+ 1.80	1.30
US Emerging Cos	293.00	314.30	- 1.10	
Ethical	97.20	103.40	- 0.50	1.75
International	169.60	180.40	+ 0.90	
Dividend & Growth	92.00	97.87	- 0.16	3.07
Global Gwth & Soc	84.50	90.24	- 0.04	1.95
Latin America	58.45	60.06	- 1.52	1.13
Capital Reserve	*168.80*	*168.90*	*+ 0.10*	*5.33*
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	138.50	147.30	+ 0.60	1.26
Equity Income #	176.10	187.30	+ 1.00	3.35
Extra Income #	346.10	367.30	+ 2.30	4.08
Smaller Cos	88.78	94.44†	- 0.44	2.30
International	158.90	169.00†	+ 1.30	0.91
ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD				
Enq: 0345 885 566 Dlg: 0800 833 580				
Amer Opp Acc	382.82	401.97	- 0.27	
Asia Pacific	60.83	64.36	- 0.34	
Emg Mkts Inc	45.59	48.23	+ 0.66	
Ethical Inc	91.19	96.49	- 0.03	0.95
Euro Grth Acc	142.95	150.71	+ 1.49	0.02
Euro Spec Opps Acc	151.55	159.48	+ 2.41	
Extra Inc Inc	246.10	260.42†	+ 1.21	4.61
Extra Inc Acc	351.93	372.40	+ 1.73	4.61
FE Emg Econ	78.77	83.35	- 0.11	0.97
Fixed Int Inc #	29.85	31.33	- 0.02	8.10
Frontier Mk Inc	67.74	71.49	+ 0.25	0.36
Fund Ct Inv Inc #	210.73	222.98	+ 0.67	7.72
Fund Ct Inv Acc	476.57	504.30	- 1.51	7.72
Gilt Inc Inc #	53.41	56.67†	+ 0.16	5.96
Global Bond Inc	43.01	44.87	+ 0.27	4.55
High Inc Inc	180.98	191.50	+ 0.08	3.68
High Inc Acc	248.27	262.71	+ 0.12	3.68
Japan Inc	173.80	182.35	- 2.66	
Latin Amer Inc	45.78	48.43	+ 0.66	0.24
Mazon Inc Inc	67.34	71.24	+ 0.91	2.79
Master Grth Inc	65.44	69.24	+ 1.01	0.53
North Amer Inc	304.44	318.69	+ 0.38	
North Amer Acc	304.81	319.07	- 0.37	
Prop Share Inc	88.73	93.89	+ 0.03	1.70
Special Sit Inc	186.90	197.77	- 0.14	1.26
Special Sit Acc	214.04	226.48	- 0.16	1.26
Tech Inc	1378.00	1442.53	+ 1.68	
Tech Acc	1378.00	1442.53	+ 1.68	
UK Blue Chip Inc	139.34	147.05†	+ 0.97	2.20
UK Blue Chip Acc	171.22	180.69	+ 1.19	2.20
UK Emg Co Inc	96.29	104.09	- 0.11	1.37
UK Grth Inc	86.17	91.12	- 0.63	1.06
World Port Inc #	102.49	107.86	+ 0.67	1.80
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2746.00	2883.00		
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 266 5068				
Resdl Property	116.60	124.00†		5.50
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	112.45	119.31†	+ 0.03	2.13
Income Builder Inc	106.27	113.05	- 0.35	2.93
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 528 911				
Cntrctd Out Pen's	168.10	174.60	.	
Foundtn Persl Pens	92.94	96.56	+ 0.09	.
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	440.40	467.90	+ 1.20	
Bond	134.70	141.70	+ 0.35	5.89
Brit Smlr Cos	107.30	114.00		1.40
Europe	438.20	464.20	+ 4.20	
Euro Smlr Cos	*127.90*	*136.10*	*+ 0.55*	*0.30*
High Income #	77.19	82.12†	- 0.14	6.11
Income	448.00	476.60†	+ 4.05	3.51
Japan	366.40	388.10	- 2.80	
Latin American	88.98	94.66	+ 1.26	0.43
Pacific	67.11	71.39	+ 0.22	1.03
UK Smlr Cos	63.90	67.98	- 0.13	0.95
Japanese Sm Cos	720.20	739.40†	+ 6.66	
Mngd Fd	291.20	308.80	- 2.45	2.45
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	490.40	518.40		0.69
Capital Grwth	196.30	207.60		1.82
Wwide Opps	272.50	288.00		0.70
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	100.00	100.00†		4.79
Cash Acc	140.40	140.40		4.79
Combined Income #	785.60	838.00	+ 0.30	3.63
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	131.60	140.00	+ 0.40	1
500	584.60	626.80†	+ 1.90	1.48
General	484.70	518.00†	+ 1.90	1.12
Property	278.30	298.60		4.95
Trustee	339.50	362.60	+ 1.40	1.19
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	219.10	234.10†	+ 0.90	1.07
FTSE 100	161.90	171.90	- 0.60	1.32
Smaller Cos	62.84	67.03	- 0.06	2.17
Smaller Cos Acc	76.98	82.11	- 0.08	2.17
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	326.90	345.30	- 0.70	
American Growth ‡	217.80	230.70	- 0.50	
Japan	108.30	114.20†	+ 0.90	
Japan Acc	109.50	115.50	+ 0.90	
Worldwide	252.70	268.00	- 0.60	0.52
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	53.58	56.58†	+ 0.07	6.12
Mgd Grwth & Inc #	52.98	56.09†	- 0.12	4.41
Managed Growth	53.80	57.10†	+ 0.21	1
Barclays Global Investors Funds				
Brokerline 0800 783 4567				
Income Funds				
Distribution #	135.60	138.30†	+ 0.10	4.86
Equity Income #	193.30	206.20	- 0.50	3.63
Gilt & Fx Int	67.62	70.17†	+ 0.12	5.94
Int Fxd Inc	105.70	109.20	- 0.30	4.07
Int Fxd Int Acc	142.70	147.40	+ 0.40	4.07
Growth Funds - UK				
UK Growth	636.50	680.00	+ 2.60	1.11
UK Growth Acc	644.20	688.20	+ 2.60	1.11
Growth & Inc	642.50	688.50	+ 2.60	1.14
Growth & Inc Acc	1406	1502	+ 5.00	1.14
Growth Funds - Overseas				
Euro Growth	287.90	304.70	- 0.90	0.17
Euro Growth Acc	317.10	335.50	+ 0.90	0.17
Far Eastern Gwth	100.40	108.80	+ 0.40	0.37
Far East Gth Acc	172.90	187.30	+ 0.70	0.37
Customer Service Centre 0800 626262				
b2 Stk Mkt Gth	107.20	107.90†	+ 0.80	0.87
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	376.50	391.90	- 0.60	
Amer Smlr Cos	150.00	157.00	- 0.10	
Eastern	147.90	158.40		0.80
Equity Income #	141.50	150.70	+ 0.80	3.50
European Growth	655.00	694.10	+ 6.50	0.40
Europe Select	433.70	461.90	+ 1.00	0.50
German Growth	183.60	194.40	+ 0.30	0.50
Global Bond	75.87	78.77	+ 0.23	4.80
Global Growth	243.40	257.80	- 0.80	0.10
Japan Growth	136.40	144.70	+ 2.60	
Japan Success	124.80	131.60	+ 1.60	
Korea Trust	46.48	49.98	- 0.19	
Portfolio	207.60	220.20†	+ 1.30	1.10
-do- Accum	406.30	431.10	+ 2.60	1.10
UK Growth	172.10	183.00	+ 1.40	1.10
UK Smaller Cos	141.80	153.10	- 0.40	0.50
BLEVINS FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 336 1000				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	122.10	129.90		
Special Oppor Inc	47.38	50.40†		
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	219.36	228.50†	+ 0.34	0.58
-do- Accum	262.51	273.45	+ 1.45	0.58
Smaller Cos	204.12	212.63	- 0.68	0.78
-do- Accum	232.95	242.65	- 0.78	0.78
Higher Yield #	83.33	86.80†	- 0.22	2.98
-do- Accum #	142.75	148.18	+ 0.80	2.98
American Gth Inc	194.85	202.97	+ 2.25	
European Growth	249.24	259.63†	+ 1.28	
-do- Accum	254.58	265.18	+ 1.31	
Mngd Ptolio Inc	70.04	72.96†	+ 0.33	0.94
-do- Accum	74.44	77.54	- 0.35	0.94
Intl Spec Opps	228.08	237.58	- 2.09	
Pacific Grth	110.60	115.21	+ 2.82	1.04
UK General #	146.83	152.95	- 0.69	2.52
-do- Accum #	167.20	174.16	+ 0.79	2.52
Japan	47.54	49.52	+ 0.35	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	119.09	123.41†	- 0.21	6.55
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7218				
Short Dated Gilt	65.96	66.85†	- 0.01	5.42
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	249.80	263.00	+ 1.20	1.19
UK Growth	322.60	339.50	- 2.50	1.21
UK Income	214.90	226.20	+ 0.10	3.20



Early gains pared

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998/99 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	385	Allied Domecq	461	- 4	6.9	10.7
412½	379½	Belhaven	307½	..	6.1	13.7
42½	7	Burn Stewart	11	- ½	..	..
795	432	Diageo	696	+ 10	2.7	17.3
900	550	Glenmorangie A	560	..	3.2	15.2
335	222½	Highland Dist	232½	+ ½	4.9	10.9
59½	18½	Merrydown W	26	..		

BANKS

1998/99 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	893¾	ABN-AMRO	1290¼	+ 9¼	3.0	16.1
1390	880	Abbey Natl	1274	+ 6	3.0	17.6
[illegible]	585	Alliance & Leic	865	+ 1	3.1	15.5
[illegible]	587½	Allied Irish	1067	- 3	2.2	..
[illegible]	332¾	Aus New Z	448	- 6¼	4.5	.
[illegible]	3237½	Bank America	4443¾	+ 65¼		
[illegible]	437	Bank Scotland	823	- 10	1.6	20.6
[illegible]	827	Barclays	1781	+ 42	3.2	20.0
[illegible]	865½	Bk of Ireland	1292½	+ 17½	2.2	21.2
[illegible]	1565½	Commerzbk	1853¾	+ 12½	2.8	...
[illegible]	218¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	412½	.	1.1	.
[illegible]	3106¼	Deutsche Bk	3187½	- 65¼	2.4	
[illegible]	925	Espirito Santo	984¾	- 16½	4.0	.
[illegible]	112¾	Fuji Bank	[illegible]	+ 11¼	1.2	.
[illegible]	980	HSBC	1998	+ 37	3.0	20.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

1998/99 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld	Gross red yld

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

MEDIA

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

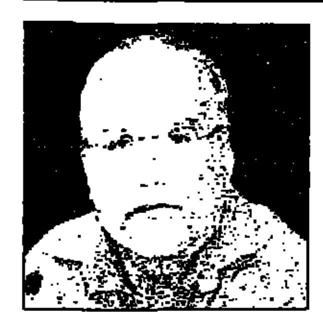
[illegible]

WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]



THEATRE
Richard Dreyfuss: more nibble than bite
PAGE 40

THE TIMES
ARTS

MUSIC





NEW MOVIES: James Christopher sees Franco Zeffirelli put his past in safe British hands taking *Tea With Mussolini*

Travails with my giddy aunts

Franco Zeffirelli's films often wobble between the good and the ghastly before plunging one way or the other. **Tea With Mussolini** is no different. Based on Zeffirelli's bizarre childhood in the 1930s and 1940s in Florence, the film is wildly nostalgic about his younger self. It is also surprisingly amusing and touching about the batty group of English expats who adopted him when his mother run off to Paris and his father disowned him. Ultimately, it's a homage to these ladies, who were feared for their scathing snobbery and roundly turned on when Mussolini banked his chips with Hitler.

Zeffirelli is not someone you naturally turn to for documentary truths, but this has flashes of brilliance. The scene where Maggie Smith's Lady Hester Random sits down to sip Earl Grey with Il Duce is the most understated epiphany in the director's career. There is no crashing musical score and no bruising personality clash, just the refrigerated self-importance of two egomad characters. Claudio Spadaro's grim Mussolini is in the process of building an empire: Smith's tweedy widow is representing a bunch of eccentric spinsters. "Shall I be mother?" asks Smith archly, poised with the teapot. It's a wonderfully preposterous moment.

Other set pieces must have been shot while Zeffirelli was weeping into his cappuccino: his seven-year-old self (Charlie Lucas) being called a bastard in the street: his dashing dastardly father, and finally his role as an enterprising but confused adolescent (squeaky clean Baird Wallace) who joins the Resistance.



The redoubtable Lady Hester Random (Maggie Smith) joins Il Duce (Claudio Spadaro) for some Earl Grey in Franco Zeffirelli's touching memorial to his childhood, *Tea With Mussolini*

Mercifully these insufferable bits of nostalgia are salvaged by Zeffirelli's ability to attract acting legends. He excels himself here, fielding no fewer than three Dames of the British stage — Smith, Judi Dench and Joan Plowright. Turned on by the Florentine culture and dazzled by Il Duce, they toner around the streets and galleries of Florence like wayward Miss Jean Brodies.

You can feel John Mortimer's light fingers all over the script as Smith settles in for her daily attack on the American upstarts in the local tearooms. Cher, as a vulgar art collector, flaunts her wealth and supernaturally preserved buttocks; Smith spits poisonous one-liners. It's a thin victory for afternoon tea over champagne cocktails.

The serious business of bringing up the young Zeffirelli is left to Plowright's kindly matron. She plucks him from an orphanage, stuffs him full of eggs and bacon, and teaches him the glories of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Things turn nasty with the declaration of war and the incarceration of the Brits in a Tuscan hotel. A comedy of old rivalries is gently shepherded into a Tenko melodrama about British pluck and American chutzpah. Wallace's teenage Zeffirelli heroically smuggles passports, dogs and teabags. In many respects his is a strangely conventional role in an old-fashioned movie — he is the unreliable adolescent narrator — but his impressions of these odd ladies and their romance with Tuscany are entirely believable.

Zeffirelli might justifiably be accused of meddling with history, but at least he doesn't crucify it. Jake Scott's 18th-century swashbuckler **Plunkett and Macleane** has more in common with *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* than the 18th-century gentleman highwaymen who inspired it.

Here Plunkett (a brooding Robert Carlyle) and Macleane (dashing Jonny Lee Miller) politely relieve mincing aristocrats and pancaked old ladies of their baubles in Hyde Park. Greed glues them uneasily together. Stagecoaches are shot into piles of matchsticks. Bodies are dug out of graves and their guts rifled for jewels.

The pair are pursued by the usual law-enforcing sadists, including Ken Stott's dour Thief-Taker General who can't get his oats unless he's beating a half-naked prostitute to a bloody pulp.

It's a comedy, of course. But, unlike *Shakespeare in Love*, the anachronisms rip huge credibility holes in an already flimsy plot. As do the candid cameos. Michael Gambon, looking like a lump of raw veal in a fright-wig, is the elderly exception to a selection of bratpack pop-ups that include the luscious Liv Tyler. Murray Lachlan Young reciting one of his expensive poems at Tyburn gallows, and Alan Cumming as an incredibly tarty Lord Rochester. One half expects Damien Hirst to swing by on the end of a rope.



Robert Carlyle stands and delivers as a highwayman in the swashbuckling *Plunkett and Macleane*

The one consistent element Scott's film does deliver is the sense of London as one giant, unhealthy, mud-spattered stain. Mildly amusing if you like being mugged.

History gets its most ingenious twist this week in Bill Kelly's delightful romantic comedy, **Blast From the Past**. When an aeroplane plunges into Christopher Walken's backyard at the height of the Cuban crisis in 1962, he drags his pregnant wife (Sissy Spacek) into their nuclear bunker and closes the hatch for 35 years. Here the brilliant but paranoid scientist and his increasingly alcoholic wife bring up their son, Adam, on Jackie Gleason and Perry Como.

When Brendan Fraser's Adam emerges from the time capsule as a 35-year-old man, he discovers the Holocaust has created a world of transsexuals, adult book shops, gun waving delinquents, colour TV, supermarkets, nightclubs, Negroes and public transport. His mission? To find a non-mutant girl from Pasadena to repopulate the world with upstanding citizens: "One that doesn't glow in the dark," Walken asserts.

In many respects it's a far more witty inversion than Gary Ross's *Pleasantville*, where two dysfunctional teens get sucked into a squeaky-clean 1950s soap opera. Here the stabbing satire is aimed directly at the sleazy 1990s. Fraser's innocence, homilies, perfect manners and 1950s bonhomie seem almost mystical. It is a joke taken to a delicious extreme when a sect of addled hobos sets up a shrine at the entrance to the bunker and starts to worship him.

Fraser's hunky Adam duly finds his nuclear match in Alicia Silverstone's cynical, deeply suspicious Eve. But it's the witty, revealing clash of language, era and values that grips, rather than the whimsical romance.

I found it impossible to get steamed up by Caroline Link's **Beyond Silence**, in which a convincing portrait about profoundly deaf parents tapers into a tortuous German soap.

For most of her life Lara has been her parents' umbilical cord to the speaking world, dealing with bank managers, awkward Christmas dinners, even her teacher's complaints about Lara's progress in school. Her bid for freedom, aged 18, to play clarinet in Berlin threatens to destroy the delicate balance. Howie Seago's father seethes with resentment. Sylvie Testud's Lara is refreshingly rebellious. But the story sinks under manipulative plot twists designed to bring guilty lumps to Bavarian throats.

Japanese art house movies are usually weird enough without having recourse to science fiction. Sogo Ishii's **August in the Water** is almost hallucinogenic. Two strange meteorites bring death and drought to a city. People's inner organs turn to stone. A teenage diving champion, Rena Komine, and her boyfriend, Shinsuke Aoki, perch on rooftops and stare across the baking city while well-heeled pedestrians crumple silently in the streets. You could hang these shimmering views in the Tate.

The camera lingers on slow-motion shots of Komine's terrifying, graceful tumbles from the diving board into the luxurious water. There are lengthy metaphors about falling, anxiety and Komine's yen to commune with the stones. The links are inscrutable, but extraordinarily beautiful.

The 1955 chiller, **The Night of the Hunter**, was Charles Laughton's only stab at directing. The actor was in thrall to the conventions of German Expressionism and his obsession leans out of the screen as unforgettably as Robert Mitchum's crooked preacher.

The sleep-talking confession of a condemned man puts Mitchum's cleric on the trail of two children in Ohio with a $10,000 secret. It's Tom Sawyer versus Sweeney Todd: a nightmare where the adults fall over themselves to welcome the creepy, cheery evangelist while the children shiver in the cellar.

The film reaches fever pitch in the extraordinary moonlit flight of the two orphaned children who paddle downriver, gliding silently past birds of prey and twitching rabbits. The ancient fight between good and evil has rarely felt more demonic.

Tea With Mussolini
Empire
PG, 117 mins
Flashes of genius illuminate Zeffirelli's tribute to his past

Plunkett and Macleane
Odeon West End
15, 93 mins
Britpack highwaymen mug the 18th century

Blast From the Past
Warner Village West End
12, 109 mins
Ingenious twist on the nuclear baby

Beyond Silence
ABC Swiss Centre
12, 110 mins
Tortuous German soap

August in the Water
ICA, 117 mins
Beautifully skewed Japanese sci-fi

The Night of the Hunter
Curzon Soho
12, 92 mins
Robert Mitchum in 1955 classic

LINKS

WEBSITES:
Tea With Mussolini: www.uip.com
Plunkett and Macleane: www.roothench.com
Blast from the Past: www.newline.com
TELEVISION:
Film 99 With Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday 11.10pm
Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday 9pm, Monday 3.30pm, Wednesday 7.30pm
RADIO:
Talking Pictures: BBC Radio 4, Saturday 530pm, Tuesday 1130pm

Fun played fast and louche

NEW VIDEO RELEASES

■ **THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY**
Fox Pathe, 15, 1998
IT'S comedy, Jim, but not as we knew it: the jokes deliberately come from the bottom of the barrel, and no thought is given to pace, variety, or timing. In a packed cinema, the grotesquely grossy style of the Farrelly brothers can make an audience roar with laughter. Harder to do this at home, although jokes about dogs, gays, fish hooks and hair gel, and the game-for-anything spirit of Cameron Diaz, will certainly provoke pockets of mirth. Ben Stiller also stars as the loser who hires Matt Dillon's private eye to find his college sweetheart. Available to rent.



Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon in the extremely vulgar and very funny *There's Something About Mary*

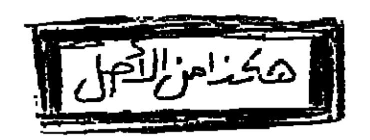
■ **MAJORETTES IN SPACE**
BFI, 18
FIVE gay French shorts from the mid-1990s on one enjoyable tape. Two by François Ozon, director of *Sitcom*, dominate. *A Little Death*, about a photographer coming to terms with his family, is meatier than many features, while *A Summer Dress* plays delightfully with a sexual coming of age on a beach. Other directors cannot match Ozon's passion and visual dexterity, although it's hard to forget *Something Different*, the tale of a transvestite butcher, or the collage effects of the title number, which darts between images of Russian cosmonauts, cheerleaders, and the Pope.

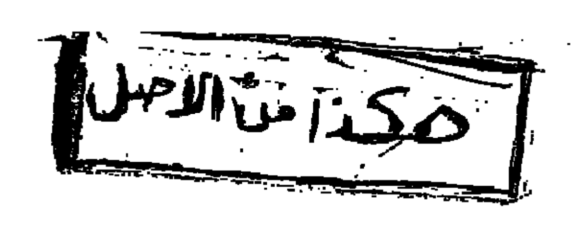
■ **SAMURAI BANNERS**
Connoisseur, 15, 1969
TOSHIRO MIFUNE, splendidly kitted out with horned helmet, breastplate and armadillo thighs, struts and grunts as a wandering samurai warrior determined to use his skills and cunning to knit 16th-century Japan together. This is not top-drawer Japanese cinema — director Hiroshi Inagaki was more a commercial workman than an artist — but Mifune's force and the widescreen spectacle should keep samurai aficionados happy.

■ **SCREAM 2**
Buena Vista, 18, 1997
"CARNAGE candy, your audience just expects it," says film nerd Randy, one of the teenage characters from *Scream*, now enrolled at a leafy Midwest college. And director Wes Craven is not one to disappoint. He fills this lively sequel with a similar bundle of ghoulish murders, Post-Modern in-jokes and cute shots of locker-room pin-up Neve Campbell. The game is not quite as exhilarating as before, but then, as Randy says, sequels never surpass the original.

■ **ZERO EFFECT**
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1997
ODDITIES pile up in this loopy whodunnit, the directorial debut of Jake Kasdan, son of director Lawrence Kasdan. Bill Pullman plays a socially inept and reclusive private eye, hired to trap the blackmailer pestering businessman Ryan O'Neal. The case is far from simple, especially once the chief suspect (Kim Dickens) sashays in. The film never shakes off the feeling of being just a clever exercise: a leading character and actor easier to like would also help. Still, Kasdan shows signs of promise, and Ben Stiller is nicely crisp and sardonic as Pullman's assistant. A rental release.

GEOFF BROWN







JEAN-CLAUDE DHIEN

The rewards of beauty: in five years in the business Liv Tyler has worked with Bernardo Bertolucci, Woody Allen and Robert Altman

A chip off the old rock

FILM: From rock'n'roll baby to pouting screen goddess, Liv Tyler is really just an ordinary girl, says **Donald Hutera**

Talking to Liv Tyler is like hanging out with your eager, sometimes endearingly naive kid sister. Suppressing a giggle, the 21-year-old American film actress announces: "I'm sorry, I'm really brain-dead." She has been jabbering all day to an assembly line of journalists about her new film *Plunkett and Macleane* (see review, page 38), a Hogarthian *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* for the *Trainspotting* generation.

Clad in black casuals, her luxuriant dark hair cropped close *à la* Liza Minnelli, Tyler folds her lanky 5ft 10in frame into a chair, and chain-smokes her way into a stream of fairly guileless, colloquial words. Basically they boil down to this: she is a charming but ordinary-seeming girl blessed with an extraordinary life.

There are, in Hollywood terms, roughly two kinds of ingénues: good girls (Winona Ryder, Kate Winslet, Gwyneth Paltrow) and bad (early Drew Barrymore and current leader of the pack, Christina Ricci). After only five years in films, Tyler sits high among the former category's swollen ranks.

Until Bruce Beresford cast her in 1994's *Silent Fall*, she was a schoolgirl model. "It was my first acting ever," Tyler says, "and a very strange and surreal experiment. But I enjoyed it." In the finished film she holds her own against Richard Dreyfuss. "If you put this girl in acting school," Beresford reportedly told Tyler's mother, "I'll kill you."

Playing a pizza waitress opposite Shelley Winters and Deborah Harry in the low-budget *Heavy*, Tyler became a pouty-lipped princess of indie cinema. But soon the big league beckoned. In Bernardo Bertolucci's *Stealing Beauty*, Tyler graduated to the status of art-house goddess in a Chekhovian meditation on youth and mortality. It was her delicate, untutored transparency — Bertolucci dubbed her "an identity in search of itself" — that anchored the film. She was about as ravishing as the sun-drenched Tuscan countryside that was the film's setting. Hers was *the* face at the 1996 Cannes Film Festival.

If Academy Awards are anything to go by, Tyler has kept exceptional company. After Bertolucci (not to mention Dreyfuss and Winters) came two-time Oscar winner Tom Hanks's directorial debut, *That Thing You Do!* Tyler nabbed the female lead. "It's everything Tom strove for it to be," she gushes. "He was completely hysterical and lovely the whole time."

Tyler herself seems remarkably level-headed, given her rock'n'roll childhood. She cut her teeth backstage at concerts and clubs. Her mother, the former model Bebe Buell, is a groupie made good, whose former boyfriends include

> ‘Bruce Beresford told Tyler's mother that if she put her daughter through acting school, he would kill her’

Rod Stewart, Elvis Costello (his *Party Girl* is about her) and Mick Jagger. The Rolling Stones reputedly dropped by the hospital the day baby Liv was born.

One of Buell's longest relationships was with Todd Rundgren. Tyler grew up believing the influential 1970s rocker was her father. It was not until she was about 12 that the truth came out: Liv is the lovechild of Buell and hellraising Aerosmith vocalist Steven Tyler. By all accounts, she took the news in her stride.

Tyler's bond with both dads remains strong. She got her screen break thanks to her biological father when, in 1994, she and Alicia Silverstone famously played teen sirens in Aerosmith's video for *Crazy*. Last year the band supplied the theme song for *Armageddon*, her first Hollywood blockbuster.

In *Armageddon* Tyler plays Bruce Willis's daughter, the repository for the hopes and fears of a planet facing imminent destruction by a giant asteroid. She twice turned down the role, only relenting after extensive rewrites and some self-assessment. "At first I thought, 'I don't want to do a movie like *that*.' But then I thought, 'I want to know what this experience is going to be like.'"

Tyler is an uncritical cinemagoer. "I almost don't have an opinion sometimes. I just absorb it and move on." Of *Armageddon* she now says "It is what it is". This casual attitude does not chime with her stated goals. "When I did *Heavy*, I went, 'I really love this. It moves me and makes me feel amazing.' But I'd rather make one movie in four years that I was proud of than do all sorts of things. I've only ever done what I want to do."

Tyler admits that she has never been to college. Movie-making is her education. As the feisty but tertiary love interest in *Plunkett and Macleane*, she not only got to wield guns and smoke cigars but learnt to ride a horse and sported an English accent.

"People don't sit you down and teach you something. You breathe the same air for three months, so you're filtering everything you see or hear. And I'm really observant."

Most recently Tyler has been working with Robert Altman. In his small-town Southern comedy *Cookie's Fortune*, she shares the screen with Glenn Close and Patricia Neal. "My character cleans catfish for a living," she says, "so I'm really stinky." Altman was a dream to work for, she says, giving free rein to what Bertolucci called Tyler's "fantastic instincts". As she explains: "I like to know what's expected of me, then go off, think about it, and just come and do it."

Is she, like Sharon Stone, in the business for the long haul? "I hope so," she answers without hesitation. "I just want to keep working with amazing directors."

Sadly, her cameo in Woody Allen's quasi-musical *Everyone Says I Love You* wound up on the cutting-room floor. "He wrote me a letter, which I keep on my desk and look at occasionally, saying that he was really sorry and it was nice to work with me and we would work again. But he's never asked me again. And he wouldn't even hear me sing, and I love to sing. So I guess maybe he doesn't like me so much."

A devilishly sweet smile spreads across Tyler's long face. "I may have to camp out on his doorstep."

In a master's modest hands



JAZZ

Despite having revolutionised the jazz approach to his particular instrument — bass guitar — Steve Swallow has spent much of his career making the music of other leaders sound good. So it was gratifying to find his band playing to a packed house on the first night of their week-long engagement at Ronnie Scott's. With him were four musicians — tenor player Chris Potter, trumpeter Barry Ries, guitarist Mick Goodrick and drummer Adam Nussbaum — whose presence similarly constitutes a solid guarantee of quality, so anticipation was justifiably high.

Swallow's occasional recordings as leader are generally neat, understated affairs showcasing his unrivalled knowledge of the way jazz is put together (one of his recent albums, *The Real Book*, focused on the jazz musician's eponymous vade mecum; another, *Deconstructed*, on the widespread practice of writing original tunes on the harmonic schemes of pop songs), so the unfussy tightness of the band sound on its opening number, dedicated to Miles Davis, came as no surprise. What was unexpected, though, was the sheer power they generated. Nussbaum's taut, crackling drumming was the most obvious source of this energy, but closer examination of the band's sound revealed its true origin in the subtle but vigorous cohesiveness of Swallow and Goodrick.

Thus, underneath the blustering eloquence of Potter and the fractured elegance of Ries, Swallow and Goodrick did what every great rhythm section does: quietly made the soloists, rather than themselves, look good. Swallow's lithe propulsiveness provided the heart of the sound, but it was Goodricks deft, warm, accompanying chords that breathed life into it, freeing Nussbaum to play a brisk, assertive role more usually associated with frontline instruments. In *Playing in Traffic*, for instance, his tumbling drums were at least as prominent in defining the theme as the appropriately car-horn-like interplay of Potter and Ries; in the set-closing *Self-Exciting Circuit*, a rolling rhythm was effortlessly established by Swallow, liberating Nussbaum to embellish rather than maintain it.

With the equally expressive but contrasting soloing styles of Potter and Ries similarly freed by the artistry of Swallow and Goodrick, this was as near a perfect display of small-group jazz — robust yet exquisitely poised, cogent but surprisingly delicate — as has been heard in London in recent years.

CHRIS PARKER

Blowing up a storm

OPERA

Peter Grimes
Sadler's Wells

PETER STEIN'S staging of *Peter Grimes* for Welsh National Opera had a mixed critical reception when it opened in Cardiff, but the *Grimes* that begins the WNO's week at the Wells is a high-tension affair, in every way worthy of a company whose fortunes are riding high at present.

Stein, conductor Carlo Rizzi and John Daszak in the title role combine in a mesmeric performance where the intervals seem almost an imposition. Daszak's Grimes is an ageing bovver boy, hair close-cropped and manner unwaveringly confrontational. The biceps and chest muscles mark living is ever rough. Donald Maxwell's Bulstrode is properly pensive, also an outsider in a place where mob law rules. He catches the ambiguity of the man, who may be the voice of reason but ultimately tells Grimes that there is no place for him in this community.

There is another top-class performance from Janice Watson's sweetly sung Ellen Orford, her face carrying the pallor of the schoolroom among the rogues and blusterers. All of these are sharply characterised by Stein, led by Peter Bronder's roly-poly Methodist dissenter, Bob Boles, and Peter Savidge's lithe and slimy apothecary. Some of the supporting female roles could have been more strongly cast vocally, but shortcomings here are more than made up for by the verve of the WNO chorus, dressed mainly in dun colours by Moidele Bickel except on Sundays when the sun comes out and the church bells ring.

Stefan Mayer's sets are a strange mixture of the realistic and expressionistic, boats drawn up on the Borough beach alongside ugly Germanic walkways. This is not a pleasant place to live, with a huge black cloud hovering ... the

Death in living colour

La Bohème
Glasgow

SCOTTISH OPERA'S peep-show *Bohème* is back. And, 11 years on, Elijah Moshinsky's production at the Theatre Royal shows it really can stand the test of timelessness pretty well, as the curtains close in from three sides at the end of each act to form the parade of period tableaux which is the particular seduction of this staging.

Tom Smith is in charge of this revival and, apart from a rather cringingly obvious meeting of hands in the dark — first over the lost keys, and then as Mimi eavesdrops in the snow — everything is vividly on cue. This is the production of umbrellas and Tricolours, of the vaudeville of waiters in the Café Momus, and of the Hollywood-Dickens san is in the pit for the opening performances of the run. From the first fiery upbeat which kindles the Bohemians' banter through to the last orchestral death pangs, he is not only thrillingly supportive to his singers, but he makes the orchestra itself a powerfully dramatic co-principal.

In fact the opening act turns out to be a hard one to follow. The Bohemians are sharply characterised, with Panajotis Iconomou as a saturnine Colline, Roderick Williams a mercurial Schaunard and, above all, with Christopher Purves as a towering Marcello. His is a truly resonant presence, and he has no difficulty in making himself heard above the bustle of the Café Momus and Musetta's shrill tantrum.

Musetta herself is played by Irene Cerboncini, rising to the thespian flamboyance of her role and with the bright, feverish glint of her soprano coming into its own. It bounces nicely off the more concentrated but no less spirited soprano of her compatriot Francesca Pedaci, whose Mimi makes up in intensity of focus what it lacks in subtlety. John Hudson's Rodolfo is no more and no less attractive than the character itself, and garners the voice's resources carefully — a

■ **LISTINGS**

A new Salome for ENO

ARTS

■ **THEATRE**

Film noir staged in Glasgow

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

SALOME: Vivian Tierney makes her title role debut in David Leveaux's intense production for English National Opera of Richard Strauss's *Salome*. Matthew Best, John Graham-Hall and Elizabeth Vaughan sing the roles of Jokanaan, Herod and Herodias. David Atherton conducts.
Coliseum (0171-632 8300). Opens tonight, 8pm.

MAHLER THE SPECTACLE: The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra continues its Mahler series with a programme featuring the emotionally loaded Fifth Symphony, and the song cycle *Kindertotenlieder* performed by the Swedish baritone Håkan Hagegård. Daniele Gatti conducts.
Albert Hall (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm.

THE SILVERLAKE: The multifaceted Rory Bremner divulges another of his many talents. Here he provides Broomhill Opera with a new translation of Kurt Weill's merciless social satire *Der Silbersee*, based on the play by the Expressionist writer Georg Kaiser. Gordon Anderson directs the company. Charles Hazlewood conducts.
Wilton's Music Hall (0171-420 0000). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

HAMLET: Paul Rhys plays the prince in Laurence Boswell's new production. With Donald Sumter as Claudius.
Young Vic (0171-928 6363). Previews from tonight, 7pm

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: In *Geometry of Miracles*, Robert Lepage's latest spectacle, Frank Lloyd Wright discovers the spiritual teachings of Georgi Gurdjieff. Comes to the National Theatre April 14-24.
Tramway (0141-227 5511). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

Barbara Bonney sings Lieder in Manchester

MANCHESTER: The recently formed recital partnership between the silver-voiced singer Barbara Bonney and acclaimed pianist Melvyn Tan is put to the test in this concert of Lieder by Brahms, Grieg, Wolf and Britten.
Bridgewater Hall (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME: David Fielder, Deborah Norton and Christopher Ravenscroft star in *Broken Glass*, Arthur Miller's powerful drama, set in New York after Hitler's Kristallnacht. Gwenda Hughes directs.
New Victoria (01782 717962). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London



■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

□ **THE GIN GAME:** Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sad lives. Frith Banbury directs a surprising Pulitzer Prizewinner.
Savoy (0171-836 8888).

□ **THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE:** Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason make their British stage debuts in Neil Simon's play about big city angst.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800)

◪ **GOOD:** C.P.Taylor's best play, tracing a liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance heads a strong cast. Michael Grandage directs.
Donmar (0171-369 1732).

□ **CARD BOYS:** Even the pests who stick sex cards in phone boxes have dreams of bettering themselves, Mike Packer's spirited play tells us.
Bush (0181-743 3388).

□ **400 JOKES WITH THE DEVIL:** This is Theatre Alibi's touring account of Eisenstein's life and career, from the Odessa Steps onwards. Includes footage of his films.
Lyric Studio W6 (0181-741 8701).

■ **THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE:** Adrian Noble's spectacular production of the first Narnia adventure comes to town.
Barbican (0171-638 8891).

□ **SACRED HEART:** In Mick Mahoney's new play two second-generation Irish lads from NW3, meet again after years estranged. Edward Hall directs.
Ambassadors (0171-565 5000).

□ **GROSS INDECENCY: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde:** Michael Pennington plays Wilde, with William Hoyland and Clive Francis as counsel for and against, in Moises Kaufman's play.
Gielgud (0171-494 5065).

□ **A LOVELY SUNDAY FOR CREVE COEUR:** Late Tennessee Williams play where four thirtysomething women do and don't want to go for a lakeside picnic. Jenny Sealey directs for Graeae Theatre.
Drill Hall (0171-637 8270).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

GODS AND MONSTERS (15): Ian McKellen excels as a legendary horror movie director who grooms his gardener (Brendan Fraser) for a role far darker than that of over-muscled escort. Bill Condon directs this flawed but absorbing tale.

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18): Edward Norton is ferociously compelling as a white supremacist skinhead in Tony Kaye's lavish, controversial but doomed attempt to get under the skin of an American tragedy.

PAYBACK (18): Mel Gibson blasts his way through Brian Helgeland's chunky, sadistic thriller. The film luxuriates in its 1970s anachronisms and smooth-talking villains. With James Coburn, and Kris Kristofferson.

THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U): Painless, big cartoon adventure from Nickelodeon in which farting toddlers bond in a spooky forest. Witty enough for adults; an unavoidable necessity for three to eight-year-olds.

MIGHTY JOE YOUNG (PG): A gigantic, emotional gorilla goes mad in LA. Ron Underwood's film is a triumph of special effects over dismal stereotypes such as the shapely Charlize Theron.

LA PROMESSE (ICA): Enthralling Belgian gem about illegal immigrants by Luc and Jean-Pierre Dardenne. Pin-sharp performances from Jérémie Renier and Olivier Gourmet as his Fagin-like father.

AN AUTUMN TALE (U): Eric Rohmer's slight, tedious film about a middle-aged wine grower (Beatrice Romand) artfully twiddles its thumbs but offers no real incentive to detain you.

CURRENT

ARLINGTON ROAD (15): Nerve-shredding thriller with a magnificent performance by Jeff Bridges as a paranoid professor who thinks his neighbour, Tim Robbins, is hatching a terrorist conspiracy.

WAKING NED (PG): It's *Lottery Galore!* for a small village in this slushy Irish fable about a corpse in charge of a winning lottery ticket. With Ian Bannen and David Kelly. Kirk Jones directs

SEUL CONTRE TOUS (I STAND ALONE) (18): Brutal, stomach-churning voyage through a French butcher's life. Philippe Nahon puts in a monumental performance in Gaspar Noe's ghastly, nihilistic experiment.

Jerry-built castles in the air



Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason are only two of the things wrong with David Taylor's production of Neil Simon's *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*

To read *The Prisoner of Second Avenue* is to wonder if it might be the comedy that answers the doubts regularly expressed about Neil Simon on this side of the Atlantic. The play does not seem so soft-centred and dependent on smart one-liners as most of his work. It even brings bite to its subject, which is the stress of Manhattan living. Who, then, are we to blame for this revival's failure to do much more than nibble entertainingly — time, Simon, the director, or the

THEATRE

The Prisoner of Second Avenue
Haymarket

stars, who are Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason?

Most of them, I fear, plus Alan Ayckbourn, who has so often shown how harsh, dark and serious comedy can be while still remaining comedy.

Time is the least guilty defendant, for New York was a more menacing place in 1971, when the play was first performed, than it is in 1999, when Mayor Zero Tolerance is successfully bringing down the crime rate. In scene one Dreyfuss's Mel Edison rages both at an East Side apartment that feels like "an eggbox that leaks" and at a city where you cannot venture on to the balcony without being assailed by heat, noise and stink. By scene two he and Marsha Mason's Edna Edison have been burgled and he has lost his job, and by scene three he is a certifiable New York paranoid, a sick maggot in the rotten Big Apple.

In Simon's original a radio reinforces the picture with representative slices of news: the hospitals and judges are on strike, a terrorist is poisoning the water, Governor Rockefeller has been mugged, President Nixon wants the National Guard to man the law courts. In David Taylor's production most of these have been cut or replaced with reports that are merely silly: a boy climbs up a giraffe to find cats on top, and so on. The effect is to disguise the play's period. Worse, the jokiness makes you suspect that Simon's indignation is disingenuous — just another example of the pride and glee New Yorkers take in surviving in their "unliveable city".

Dreyfuss could help here, and sometimes he does so. His pale, crumpled face touches you when he admits he has been ignominiously fired. But his best efforts are always simply comic, as when his jaw does not merely drop in aghast disbelief at the awfulness of New York, but yanks back to leave his mouth gaping like a cave in a cliff. You do not feel he is sinking into lunacy, as (to do Simon justice) the stage directions demand. Perhaps it is unfair to expect Dreyfuss's eyes to be "sunken into his sockets" — but where's the "grimness", the "deep depression", the obsessed prisoner's walk, the "intensity" of macho mannerisms?

But maybe Simon is asking too much here, for his plot does not develop in an altogether crisp, clear, unsentimental way, nor is his human observation especially original or trenchant. Edison's flummoxed siblings add little, and his elder brother, who has never recovered from childhood envy, actually pushes the play down a distracting sidestreet.

Moreover, the gently emoting Mason cannot disguise the fact that Edna is a dull wife-martyr whose self-denial nowadays seems almost masochist and whose exhausted desperation, when it emerges, sounds hollow. Myself, I can recommend the evening for one reason only: whatever Simon's more earnest intentions, you will laugh. Every so often.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Wan for the boys

Maurice
Bloomsbury

Billed as "A Story of Forbidden Love", E.M. Forster's book was the first study of homosexuality by a major English writer. It was written in 1914, nearly 20 years after the fall of Oscar Wilde for practising what one of Forster's young men calls "the unspeakable vices of the Greeks". Forster's exposure of class snobbery is here, in the contempt expressed by landed persons for the servants who tend to their needs. His hatred for the narrow horizons of suburban families comes in as well, but we are left to guess whether he connects either of these with the suppression of love, primarily between men, which drives his book and now the play.

Andy Graham's direction for Snap Theatre places the ten years of Maurice Hall's emotional growth on and around an eight-sided orange carpet with a plinth at the centre supporting an heroic nude by some unspeakably vicious Greek. Nancy Surman's design is readily adaptable to scenes of school, the courts of Cambridge colleges, domestic interiors and museums.

Alas, what reduces the enjoyment of so much of the production is Forster's thin characterisation of most of the crucial figures. The most rounded character, although still within the period stereotype of the bold, untroubled working man, is Scudder, the young gamekeeper (what else!) who becomes Maurice's salvation. Played with tensed energy by Glyn Morgan, he is tellingly positioned by Graham on the periphery of several scenes, a flesh and blood equivalent of the marble statue.

Try though they may, Adam Astill and David Willoughby cannot extricate their portrayals of Maurice and his Cambridge friend Durham from Forster's embarrassing soppiness. Lisa Turner as various twittering women and Christopher Mellows as some heavy villains and one wise counsellor turn in decent cameos, but the play takes a long time to reach its closing moments of truth-telling rapture.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Choice slice of lives



Begin Again
Tron, Glasgow

There's an anti-heroin advertisement on television just now that in split screen offers two alternative lifestyles. While one boy spends time at his PlayStation or on the football field, his addicted doppelganger steals money from his father and ends up begging for change. While this has little to do thematically with playwright David Harrower's latest collaboration with the director Guy Hollands's KTC theatre company, structurally it is the same. For what is basically a film noir for the stage takes a point in history, rewinds, then shows how, like the boy in the ad, things could have worked out so very differently.

It begins in 1948, the week before Britain's welfare state was launched. Inside a dance hall a man named John Morrison is mistakenly given a package. He flees, only to be stabbed to death outside by someone who wanted the parcel more. A week earlier Morrison was looking forward to a brave new world where poverty and crime would be wiped out. Moving back even further, though, to the first anniversary of VE-Day, there were the temptations of easy women and easier money. All you had to do was pin your hopes on another world, of backstreet gangsters, and your destiny could change for ever.

Even as a straight noir, *Begin Again* is seductive. But it's the twist halfway through that makes it compelling. For without ever overplaying its hand both in terms of formal tricks and factual research, the play offers up a history of small-time spivs and sexual repression that never made the newsreels, but is here allowed to come out of the shadows.

With a cast of only three, led by Iain Macrae as Morrison, Harrower and Hollands lead the audience through a hall of mirrors where official history is shown up as a sham and where good guys can turn into bad guys in an instant. Macrae captures all Morrison's frustration at not being allowed to have his cake and eat it, while Stewart Porter shows both vulnerability and menace in his multiple roles, as does Helen Lomax, who takes all the female parts.

NEIL COOPER

■ **RADIO**

Radio 3 on location

■ **CLASSICAL CDS:**

A novelty for Easter

The sound of Greek sunshine

A radio crew goes to Greece in search of authenticity. A jolly, a folly or a sonic breakthrough, asks **Daniel Rosenthal**



Getting it taped: Sir Timothy Ackroyd (left), John Hunt (centre) and Roger Elsgood (right) recording Anne Michaels's *Fugitive Pieces* on the Greek island of Zakynthos

The story begins conventionally enough. Radio 3 commissions a dramatisation of *Fugitive Pieces*, Anne Michaels's devastating, Orange Prize-winning novel, which is partly set on the Greek island of Zakynthos. An independent producer, Roger Elsgood, writes a script and hires a cast. So far, so predictable. Last October, however, instead of popping into a studio, Elsgood and his team packed up their microphones, tape recorders and swimming trunks and drove to Heathrow. Part of *Fugitive Pieces* would be recorded at the location featured in the book. Next stop, Zakynthos.

When you learn that a radio producer is making the kind of trip traditionally reserved for film-makers, the first question is "Why bother?" — swiftly followed by "How much licence-payers' money will this cost?" But such concerns were quickly pushed aside by a more pressing revelation: Elsgood and Co were on the wrong island.

The first and most moving section of Michaels's story deals with the extraordinary wartime friendship between Jakob Beer, a Polish Jewish boy, and Athos Roussos, the Greek geologist who rescues him from the Nazis and shelters him on Zakynthos. But the scenes that Elsgood was recording on the island feature Jakob, aged 60, and his young wife Michaela, shortly before their deaths, and Ben, the Canadian friend who comes to Greece in search of Beer's notebook. In the book, this all takes place on the island of Idhra — so the crew should have been 250 miles to the east.

True enough, Elsgood conceded, but the "acoustical ambience" on this island was stronger than Idhra's. "We came here because I want to bring film production processes, ideas and values to radio — to produce something that's more like cinema than the traditional 'theatre play on the radio'," he said, adding that, yes, the sunshine, warm waters and Greek cuisine made this "a very nice place to work".

On the day I was with them, the work involved recording on a beach, at a café and on the streets of Zakynthos town, picking up background effects that were music to the ears of John Hunt of BBC Radiophonics. Hunt explained: "It's difficult to get a realistic exterior acoustic in a studio. Here, we have unsilenced scooters, and flower-sellers passing by on a horse-drawn cart. It's very vibrant, in contrast to a sterile studio."

Hunt and Elsgood both argued that the location would also inspire the actors, including the one amateur in the cast. In the novel, Ben has an affair on Idhra with Petra, a free-spirited 22-year-old American. Since Elsgood had only brought one actress to Zakynthos (Dee Hart as Michaela), he planned to enlist his Petra from among the American backpackers who flock to Zakynthos.

His search proved fruitless, so the Yank became a Scot: Petra would be played by Sarah Vitsou, a primary school teacher from Aberdeen, now married to a Zakynthos farmer. There is no disputing the naturalism of her radio debut: when called upon to gasp as Petra looks out from the terrace of Jakob's house, Vitsou really was standing on a terrace with a marvellous view of the sea.

Ah, yes, the sea — the most important acoustic feature of all. "There are plenty of sound effects CDs with waves going 'whoosh'," Elsgood said. "But none of them gives you the perfect sense of distance between the shore and the actors that we have here." I was not convinced, until I watched Sir Timothy Ackroyd (the title is inherited) as Jakob, addressing the child that he and Michaela long for but will never have. Stretched out on a bed, with the Ionian Sea lapping gently at the sand below, he seemed entranced — and the speech caught the immense power of Michaels's writing.

"I think being here has helped me hugely," he said afterwards. "There are no time constraints, you don't feel under pressure, as you would in a studio — and there are no Tube journeys every morning."

What of the expense? On the island, Elsgood insisted that the trip would cost less than a week in a London studio, and so it proved. The total bill was about £3,300, whereas five, eight-hour days in Soho, with two studio managers, would have set the production back about £7,000; authenticity *and* a 50 per cent saving.

Having recorded the remainder of the dramatisation — including the scenes set on Zakynthos — at less exotic locations in London, and added post-production effects, Elsgood was finally ready to let Michaels hear the results. "I admire the fact that Roger is pushing the boundaries of radio, and I admire his attempt at authenticity by going to Greece, and the rigour that implies," she said from her home in Toronto. "However, with one exception, that same rigour was not applied to the actors' analysis of the characters as I wrote them."

The exception she makes is Ackroyd, who delivers a haunting portrayal which dominates the 90-minute adaptation — he was right to believe the trip to Zakynthos had paid off. Tune in this Sunday to judge for yourself whether Elsgood's adventure has created a soundscape so evocative that you can hear the sunshine.

● Fugitive Pieces *is on Radio 3 at 7.30pm on Sunday*

War in the air

THERE is, of course, a novel inside every journalist. Fortunately most of us manage to leave it there. The reason is not entirely laziness or confusion as to how one might spend a Martin Amis-sized advance. No, our fatal distraction is a fascination with real life.

This is an area insufficiently catered for in radio. Much is written, for example, about the state of drama at Radio 4 but not enough is written, because not enough is broadcast, about the dramatic state of real life. For evidence that reality far outdoes the wildest imaginings of fiction you only had to hear My Dad's Diary (Radio 4, Monday).

War is all over the airwaves so *My Dad's Diary* had a contemporary resonance. Not that it needed relevance to be riveting radio, for here was a story no writer of fiction could hope to get away with.

The diary in question had been kept by the late Noel Goode while he was a prisoner of war on a Japanese island in the Second World War. The diary was moving in itself, but what set it apart was the manner of its discovery.

After the war Goode returned to his family. He died in 1983, but he never mentioned the diary. Six years later, his daughter, Mary Kiehn, received a call from a local vicar who had been contacted by a former GI who, walking on a beach after the Japanese surrender, had picked up a bundle of papers. It was Goode's dairy.

The American took the diary to his base and read it. He was fascinated, so much so that before handing the original over to military security, he sat down and typed it out. He kept it for 40 years and, when he retired, decided to track down Goode's family. Kiehn recalled in the programme how she sat down and read the 100 A4 pages at one sitting: "It was just like my Dad talking to me [and] at the same time it was like rediscovering my father."

Derek Jacobi read the diary extracts with his usual aplomb and feel for the precision of meaning. But on this occasion neither the words nor Jacobi's faultless delivery could quite match up to the parallel story of their discovery.

There are still those who say that Radio 4 does not surprise and delight any more, but here was a programme that was both a surprise and a delight, a human story, told without bangs and whistles. It left you wondering what scraps of paper might now be abandoned in the Balkans, awaiting some future chance encounter.

PETER BARNARD

Burning spirit

CONCERT

Walking out on to the stage, Maria João Pires cuts a slight and unassuming figure. But the moment she raises her hands, small by pianistic standards, you see that she means serious business. Her first notes confirm this: Pires's style is about total engagement and inner strength, and her cultivated sound is refreshingly unpercussive.

For this concert in the Barbican's Celebrity Recitals series, the Portuguese pianist played three composers about whom she has something special to say.

The Prélude of Debussy's *Pour le piano* asserted itself at once, with the opening flurries turning both fiery and reflective. Pires found all the Mediterranean colour here and in the movements that follow: the Sarabande had repose, and the Toccata was — as its title implies — showy, but there was also passion. Some unsettled moments apart, this was a performance that evoked the work's "antique" feel as well as its modernity for 1901 — the year, incidentally and according to the programme's "timeline", that instant coffee was invented. The things you learn by going to concerts.

Pires went straight to the heart of Chopin too, capturing the essential simplicity of the five Nocturnes she played. The still surface of Op 15, No 1 in F major was as brilliantly handled as the more impassioned Op 27, No 1 in C sharp minor, and, most magically of all, the dream-like atmosphere of its companion piece in D flat major. Just in case anyone was longing for something more substantial, she gave a towering performance of the Fantasy in F minor, before bringing a mixture of dazzling wit and heartache to the famous Fantasy-Impromptu.



Pires: down to business with passion and control

In between came the highlight of the recital: a fresh account of Mozart's well-known and supposedly straightforward Sonata in A, K331. The opening theme was invested with rare purity, something Pires carried over into the elegant and poised early variations. She conjured up the different character of each of the variations, never sacrificing their essential grace but always bringing to them a sense of fun.

Most revealing of all was her rendition of the *Rondo alla Turca* finale, sedate and almost restrained where some pianists rattle away flashily. All the Turkish pomp and circumstance, reminiscent of music in Mozart's opera *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, was brought to life more vividly than ever.

JOHN ALLISON

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Devilish bass, Finnish invention and Easter novelty

OPERA

■ **GOUNOD**
Faust
Plazas/Clarke/Magee/Miles/
Philharmonia Orch./Parry
Chandos 3014 (three CDs)
★★ *£29.99*

THE bass Alastair Miles is having a devilish spring. Hard on his assumption of the title role of Boito's *Mephistopheles* with the ENO comes Satan in Gounod's *Faust*. But with a difference. Nothing could be further from the Coliseum's flippant staging than the approach of David Parry and the Philharmonia to Gounod. They take a very serious view of Faust, luxuriating in the sentimental moments and pulling out all the stops in the Meyerbeerian ones.

Miles himself sounds far more at home in Gounod than in Boito, not least in clarity of diction which was certainly not the case in the theatre. His Satan is suave and persuasive, just the man to lead others astray. Both the big arias are shaped with finesse.

Chandos has also turned to the ENO for the Marguerite. Mary Plazas begins by sounding almost too fragile for the innocent girl first seen sitting at her spinning wheel. But in a highly intelligent interpretation she reveals more and more vocal strength, leading the final trio like a Verdi heroine. Paul Charles Clarke is adequate in the title role, but lacks the easy, lyrical flow Faust should have.

JOHN HIGGINS

ORCHESTRAL

■ **RAUTAVAARA**
On the Last Frontier; Flute Concerto; Anadyomene
Gallois/Helsinki PO/
Segerstam
Ondine ODE 912-2 ★★★
£14.99

THE inspiration for a number of the Finnish Romantic mystic Einojuhani Rautavaara's works can be traced back many decades. In the case of *On the Last Frontier*, first heard at the composer's 70th birthday celebrations last October, he recalled an adventure story read in his boyhood: Poe's *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*. That tale developed in his subconscious into a meditation on the final frontier separating this life from ... not unlike Vaughan Williams's *Sinfonia Antartica*, but Rautavaara's own personal blend of piquant semitonal dissonances and wonderfully resourceful scoring, evoking the rushing of cataracts and the screaming of birds, is wholly individual. The Finnish Philharmonic Choir and Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra rise to the occasion under Leif Segerstam.

Two earlier works complete the disc: the Flute Concerto of 1975, with Patrick Gallois the accomplished soloist, and *Anadyomene* (Adoration of Aphrodite), the latter marking the point (1968) at which Rautavaara began to move away from strict serialism towards a more spontaneous, more spiritual form of utterance.

BARRY MILLINGTON

VOCAL

■ **CALDARA**
***La Passione di Gesu Cristo* Signor Nostro**
Europa Galante/Biondi
Virgin Veritas 5 45325 2
★★★ *£15.99*

A VENETIAN composer at the Viennese court provides this year's Easter novelty: An... atorio for the lavish rituals of Holy Week at the Habsburg court in 1717. Imagine the scene as scenographers, designers and prop-makers sweat away to create the society spectacle of the year — tomb, cross, spear and all.

Caldara's oratorio begins arrestingly with an anguished recitative and aria from the Disciple Peter, after his denial of Christ. Laura Polverelli's spirited contralto asks: "Where am I? Whither do I hasten?" after plangent chords from the thrillingly articulated period instruments of Fabio Biondi's Europa Galante have set the pulse racing.

Mary Magdalene (the raw, girlish soprano Patricia Petibon) adds her own most eloquent musical gnashing of teeth, closely followed by the distraught eyewitness, John (soprano Francesca Pedaci), and Joseph of Arimathea (bass Sergio Foresti), venting his rage on Jerusalem. Between them they share the retrospective narration of and meditation on those dark Good Friday hours and, gently moralising, leave us just as the dawn of the Third Day is breaking.

HILARY FINCH

★ Worth hearing

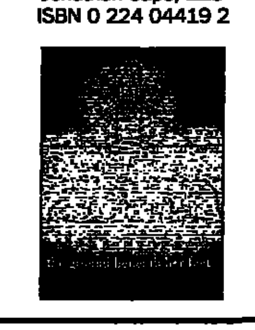
CDs reviewed in *The* ...

BOOKS

Singing the rock of ages

Rushdie's return is music to the ears of **Russell Celyn Jones**

THE GROUND BENEATH HER FEET
By Salman Rushdie
Jonathan Cape, £18
ISBN 0 224 04419 2



In Salman Rushdie's polyphonic fictions a variety of opposing discourses are set against each other. The narrator is often a half-joking master of ceremonies who declines to make judgments on any one point of view. The voice is playful, teasing, even when the author's intentions are grave. Dogma becomes hypothetical in his "true" novels.

His style can be traced to Grass and Kundera in one direction and through Dostoevsky back to what the critic Mikhail Bakhtin called the "laughing, parodying, travestying" genre of medieval storytellers. The metaphorical heart of this medieval culture was the carnival. Obscene and offensive, the carnival was intended to upset and ridicule the higher powers. Dangerous impulses were given vent for a period in order to achieve an internal psychological balance for the rest of the time. In Rushdie's novels this spirit of the carnival is given a second life. *Cyprian Feasts*, for instance, a medieval parody on sacred texts, seems a likely source for *The Satanic Verses*, which — tragically for Rushdie — was read all too doctrinally.

His subject in *The Ground Beneath Her Feet* is popular music. Such a global phenomenon allows Rushdie to do what he always does, which is to roam all over the world with the text. It stars Vina Aspara as the greatest popular singer in the world, who triumphs over a harrowing childhood through music; and Ormus Cama, a modern reworking of both Orpheus and twice-born Dionysus. Ormus "hears" the songs of Elvis Presley, 1,001 nights before Elvis recorded them, through the voice of his twin brother Gayomart, who died in childbirth (Elvis too had a stillborn twin). Like Ike & Tina, Sonny & Cher, John & Yoko, Vina & Ormus form a partnership called VTO. On one level the novel can be read as rock family biography — and in real life, U2 are releasing a single with the same title as Rushdie's novel on the day of publication.

LINKS

TELEVISION:
Salman Rushdie will be speaking on Sky News on Sunday April 4 at 11.30 am and at 8.30 pm.

Always a master of fusion, Rushdie writes musical prose — here the author is seen on stage with U2's Bono, and the band will be releasing a single to coincide with the novel

Rushdie writes of identity in terms of possibility. People get trapped by history: but what if history is a fantasy internalised as fact? What if Kennedy had escaped the assassin's bullet in Dallas? What if Nick Carraway — Fitzgerald's narrator of *The Great Gatsby* — and Jay Gatsby could be resurrected to sit on a panel to discuss the merits of rock'n'roll in society? What if an Indian was the "true" author of 50 years of rock culture? Rushdie's instinct is a Utopian one, but for the past rather than the future. Progress comes from imagining what is possible. By asking, "What if?" he sets his characters free. Only through the novel can this be done.

Like all Rushdie's novels, *The Ground Beneath Her Feet* dissolves into multiple stories, improvisations that keep moving away from the ground beat, parodying the concept that an individual can be representative of a whole world. The narrator is a Bombayite born on August 15, 1947, the day of Independence, and a photographer with a "knack for invisibility". His job, like Nick Carraway's, is to mythologise greater men. The one-dimensional sixtieth-of-a-second nature of photography is counterpointed by a 50-year timescale; with revolutions, earthquakes and assassinations that destroy worlds but provoke grand new beginnings.

The cast of larger-than-life characters from several generations are all, in some way, affected by Ormus and Vina. Ormus's barrister father, Sir Darius, is of the opinion that popular music is responsible for the world's ills and retreats to study comparative mythology. He develops his theory of a "fourth" concept of civilisation, which seems to be a reference to the comic "fourth drama" of the Ancient Greeks. Sir Darius's theory of "outsideness" is one of Rushdie's autographed themes. It evokes the work of Melville, who also appropriated religious prophets, developing their theories of human nature while in quarantine. As in Melville, there is a supervisory humour guiding the design of this novel.

The Ground Beneath Her Feet is a carnival of words, a system of languages mutating East-West. It is also stuffed with references to ancient and popular culture, orientalism, philosophy, including many to cultures that never existed. These fake histories mirror the lives of characters who have built their careers on lies.

Reviewers of his novels in India (in the literary magazine *IndiaStar*, for example) have long complained that Rushdie's "exoticised" India-English dialogues glamorise the harsh realities of life in the former British colony; that he appropriates rather than represents Indian culture. That may be true, but as a transnational writer Rushdie is bound to commandeer many cultures. He is one of "language's magpies", his literature one of hybridity. At the same time he is a very English writer, like Kipling. His is a brilliant ventriloquist, but his brilliance is also his weakness — he is terminally long-winded. But ultimately, *The Ground Beneath Her Feet* is a triumphant hymn to the transforming power of love, boldly asserting that fate is only a fiction and that you can sometimes strengthen history by speculating on its alternative outcome.

Russell Celyn Jones's latest novel, The Eros Hunter, *is published by Abacus.*

Silenced voice of despair, not of hope

Julia Neuberger wonders why we need three more books on Anne Frank

A few years ago, after I had explained that my mother was a refugee from Nazi Germany, a child asked me whether I did not think that Anne Frank was the most famous Holocaust survivor. I was stunned by the question. After all, Anne Frank perished in Bergen-Belsen, in 1945, aged 15. But the more I thought about it, the more that boy was right. Anne Frank is the most famous Holocaust survivor. But what survived was a construct, created largely by her father Otto. She, of course, perished, and what more talent she might have displayed we shall never know.

That lack of knowledge makes these three new biographies — ***Anne Frank: The Biography***, by Melissa Muller (Bloomsbury, £16.99; ISBN 0 7475 4372 0); ***Roses From the Earth*** by Carol Ann Lee (Viking, £16.99; ISBN 0 670 88140 6); ***The Story of Anne Frank*** by Mirjam Pressler (Macmillan, £9.99; ISBN 0 333 74412 8) — peculiar reading. What, after all, is there to write about? Anne Frank's story is well-known. She wrote her diary from her 13th birthday until forced to stop when the hiding place in which they had been safe for some two years was raided by the SS on August 4, 1944. Of the eight Jews in hiding, only Anne's father survived. His life's work was to ensure the publication (with judicious editing) of Anne's diary, and the spreading of a universal message of hope from her writing.

So, with little new, Anne Frank's three biographers have done her a disservice by trivialising her work. Instead of Anne Frank, the young talent, we get Anne Frank in daydreams about skating after the war with her cousin Berndt (now Buddy) Elias, in Carol Ann Lee's. Or we get her writing, homesick, to her parents, from Beekbergen, in summer 1941 in Melissa Muller's. We get nothing more about her personality, or her life.

Indeed, the only interesting material (from the Melissa Muller biography in particular) is about Otto Frank rather than Anne. For Muller wrestles with why it was that Otto Frank (and later his widow and Buddy Elias) omitted from the published versions of the diary anything critical of Anne's mother Edith. Muller suggests that Otto did not want anything critical of his first wife to be published. But the missing pages make surprising reading.

For the rebellious teenager, who did not get on with her mother, is depicted as having sympathy for her. Muller continues: "One cannot help but wonder why the Anne Frank Fonds (Foundation) in Basel, informed of the existence of these pages, refused to permit their publication; its refusal is all the more surprising in the light of its professed commitment to presenting a historically accurate picture of Anne Frank. Nor can one help suspecting that its primary motive is to preserve the image of Otto Frank he wanted to convey to the world (and perhaps also needed to maintain in his own eyes), even if he did so at the expense of his wife and daughter." This is shrewdly observed, as are Muller's other remarks about Otto Frank. She is critical of his treatment of Miep and Jan Gies, who helped them to hide and with whom he lived after the war. For he only left Miep 10,000 guilders, a small sum from a very wealthy man.

Of the three biographies, Muller's is the most compelling, while to write from an obsession with Anne Frank, as Carol Ann Lee does, is to devalue the subject, just as is to argue, as Mirjam Pressler does, that "sometimes she feels as close as if she were my daughter — for my own daughters were also born Jewish, and in Germany, but in a better time than her". The sentiment is as banal as it is offensive.

All this illustrates the extent to which the Anne Frank industry in particular, and the Holocaust industry in general, have tended towards the banal. The most moving, and searing, of human experiences are devalued because young women going through normal adolescence identify with Anne Frank. Cynthia Ozick's *New Yorker* attack on the Anne Frank industry, mentioned by Lee, may go too far in saying it would have been better if the diary had never been published. But a play that made Anne an all-American girl, a film that made her a universal figure, a diary published without some of its most important content — all these build up to an abuse of her memory, a quite unwarranted universalisation of her experience. She neither lived to put a stop to it, nor to enjoy the proceeds. Instead, her father did not want to particularise his daughter's death into the Jewish experience of the Holocaust. He wanted a message of hope where there was despair, of future where there was only a past, of world peace in a world at war.

Yet Anne Frank's biographers only scrape the surface of Otto Frank's complex views. These biographies should be of him, but he was only famous for being Anne's father. As she would have been 70 this year, three publishers and three biographers try, somewhat cynically, to mark the anniversary. They add yet another sheaf of paper to the mounting pile that represents the Anne Frank industry, with no new knowledge (not even the much vaunted new discovery of the betrayer), little new insight, leaving a sense that it is time to call a halt. Let the talented young writer speak for herself, and then grow silent as other accounts of that hell on earth speak louder to us all.

ANNE FRANK FONDS



Father, protector and literary guardian: Otto Frank with Anne (middle right) in 1941

Take another bow, Sir Alec

SIR ALEC GUINNESS will not be playing cameo roles in a bathchair. He considers it "indecent to shuffle on in one's eighties, hoping for the sympathy of a sentimental audience, knowing one's capacity to learn is as full of holes as a dented colander and one's energy has been used up before the curtain rises or the camera turns", as he writes in ***A Positively Final Appearance*** (Hamish Hamilton, £16.99; ISBN 0 241 13788 8). The page, however, offers a gentler form of exposure. This is Sir Alec's second appearance in journal form, following the 1996 *My Name Escapes Me*.

As a shareholder in *Star Wars*, Sir Alec knows the value of sequels, and this new journal, covering the years 1996 to 1998, contains much the same mix as before. His life in Hampshire remains tranquil with Merula, his wife of 60 years. There are trips abroad and to London. Above all, there are regular visits to church, for Sir Alec is a devout Catholic, who quotes with approval Samuel Butler's dictum that "the three most important things a man has are, briefly, his private parts, his money and his religious opinions". He is far too much of a gentleman to discuss the first and rages when a newspaper speculates on the second, but he waxes eloquent on the third.

Mortality is an even more central theme than it was in the earlier volume, with the death of old friends; his own health becomes an increasing preoccupation with cancer-scares and cataract operations. To the indignity of the consulting room is added the ignorance of the nurses ("They tell me that you used to be quite somebody in the art world"). His depiction of medical procedures shows that, while his vision may be dimming, his perception remains as sharp as ever.

Although he no longer acts, Sir Alec remains every inch the actor. Admiring anecdotes about the actors of his youth — Gielgud, Edith Evans and Claude Rains — are interspersed with criticism of young actors today for their casual diction, sloppy accents and short memories. He records an interview with a young man who believes the key to playing *The Importance of Being Earnest* is to look through the phonebook and befriend "someone called Algy".

A Positively Final Appearance is a wise, witty and good-humoured book. The one disappointment is the title: one can only hope that Sir Alec's well-honed actor's instincts will encourage him to sneak back soon for a further bow.

MICHAEL ARDITTI

Pooter has a night at the opera

GERALD KAUFMAN

GLYNDEBOURNE
An Operatic Miracle
By John Jolliffe
John Murray, £25
ISBN 0 7195 5578 7



Or, alternatively, "Mr Pooter Takes a Trip to Sussex". The earnest reader — for such its earnest writer deserves — of this handsome book will soon be immersed in the most minute and recondite details pertaining to the Glyndebourne opera festival, with no discrimination between what is important (the extraordinary achievements of this unique enterprise) and what simply does not need to be known (every ticket price charged between 1934 and 1998, this information occupying two appendices in tiny print).

If anyone wishes to know what the Editor of *The Times*, Sir William Haley, said in his telegram congratulating John Christie — the doughty eccentric and magnificent founder of Glyndebourne — on the occasion of his receiving an honorary Oxford doctorate, here it is: "With best wishes for a happy day." The author himself has a fine eye for cliché, seizing on such phraseology as "chalk from cheese" and "an irresistible force and an immovable object".

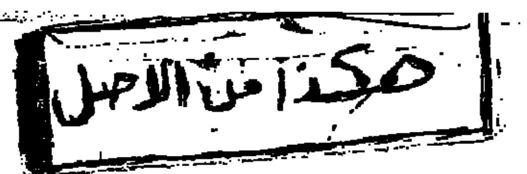
The gossipy anecdotes with which such a book should be replete are disappointingly sparse and, when they do occur, insufferably coy. Writing of the producer Günther Rennert and the soprano Grè Brouwenstijn, Jolliffe sniggers: "Rennert's relations with her off-stage were recognised as being as significant to them both as they were in the opera itself." When he does get a good story, he smothers it. After recounting a remark of Sir Denis Thatcher at one of the superlative performances of *Porgy and Bess* — "Where do all these blacks come from?" — Jolliffe muses: "It was an interesting question."

Most of Jolliffe's adjectives about Glyndebourne are much more laudatory than that. Though he concedes that there may be flaws ("clutter" in a production of *Figaro*, disdain by Jonathan Miller, who, unaccountably, "unfortunately, did not feel at home at Glyndebourne"), the epithet "wonderful" is employed frequently: it is even deployed to describe the staff canteen.

Glyndebourne deserves far better than this. The information diligently provided in this book shows John Christie's achievement to have been extraordinary: the creation out of nothing of one of the world's greatest opera festivals, with exceptional productions of a commendably wide range and the commissioning of new operas on a scale that puts Covent Garden to shame.

Although Jolliffe gets het up at what he describes as "stale" accusations of elitism, Glyndebourne is undoubtedly elitist, with its atmosphere of social exclusiveness and insistence on evening dress for patrons. On the other hand, it has every right to be elitist if it so wishes, since it does not receive a penny of public subsidy. Moreover, as Jolliffe recounts, it has branched out admirably, with a touring company (which is rightly, if unreliably, subsidised) and enterprising educational projects.

Such achievements merit a book of higher literary quality than this. All the same, this effusion will no doubt sell well at Glyndebourne's souvenir shop (for which Jolliffe thoughtfully provides the telephone number: 01273 812321, if you care to note it down).



BOOKS

Waving his disposition's hopeful flag

Printer's devil, journalist, battlefield nurse: all this, and Walt Whitman sang the song of America



Peter Ackroyd

The fact that a man may be a poseur or a liar has nothing to do with his poetry: Walt Whitman was a master of self-advertisement and self-aggrandisement, yet *Song of Myself* still remains one of the most skilful pieces of private rhetoric ever composed. That it is rhetorical is not in doubt; you only have to look at the extant photograph to realise that he was a born actor and performer. Even in extreme age, he looked like someone who has put on a great beard in order to look old. The eyes, intense and somehow feminine, give him a distant and somewhat calculating appearance. His voice was reported to be "high-pitched".

The first "barbaric yawp", as he once called his own poetry, sounded in 1819 when he was born in Long Island, New York. After a dismal education in Brooklyn, he began his life as a printer's apprentice; like William Blake, to whom in many respects he can be compared, he learnt his skills in a print-shop where he was a compositor as well as author. He even started a local newspaper, to which he contributed essays and poems, and for a while he also attempted teaching.

During this period he was, in his latest biographer's words, "frustrated and bored" or, as Whitman himself put it more magniloquently, he was an "obscure youth, a wanderer" with the desire for fame "burning and glowing" within "that youth's heart".

This is all perfectly normal: most such palpitating youths would have remained teachers and settled down to a life of stifled misery. But Whitman travelled to New York, where once more he took up the trade of journalism. Where Wordsworth found his self-image in nature, Whitman found his upon the sidewalks at the dawning of the American age. From the window of his newspaper office "I could see a full sweep, absorbing shows, accompaniments, surroundings"; he travelled on stages, railways, omnibuses and ferries. The latter always delighted him, with their strange rhythm of departure and return so much like the rolling cadences of his own free verse.

But the verse and the journalism cannot be separated. Whitman entered the world of American newspapers when they were at their most shrill and acerbic. The yellow press was decidedly jaundiced and fully deserved Charles Dickens's attacks upon it in *Martin Chuzzlewit*. His first education as a writer was in a language filled with hyperbole not unmixed with a salacious wit and harsh abuse. Yet out of this came the great sequence of poems which, in the words of Ezra Pound, "is America".

He spent a few months in New Orleans, and the city entered the great fable of his life before he once more returned to Brooklyn, where a rival editor described him as "slow, indolent, heavy, discourteous and without steady principles". This was perhaps unfair on a man about to start work on *Leaves of Grass*, which is replete with energy and vigour. Whitman was very much an early Victorian American with the same strength, will and industry which marked his English contemporaries.

Yet *Leaves of Grass* was a distinct and idiosyncratic production; he believed many of its effects were borrowed from Italian opera, as well as the Bible, but the main progenitor was the wide vista of America with its ever-widening horizons and its boundless confidence. "The United States themselves are the greatest poem," Whitman wrote. When this is complemented by the biographer's remark that "oratory was the main art form of 19th-century America" the parameters of his epic celebration are truly set. His was the voice of the plain man *in excelsis*: "I pass death with the dying, and birth with the new washed babe . . . and am not contained between my hat and boots".

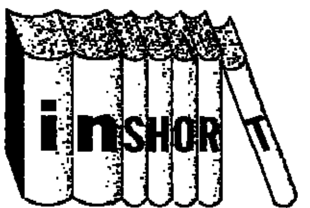
Whitman is not truly contained, either, within the pages of this book. The biography is filled with facts and events, but the detail tends to throw dust upon the bright trail of his life. The voice of Whitman reverberates throughout, but it is too cramped and squeezed.

Despite its author writing several glowing reviews of it anonymously, *Leaves of Grass* was not a success. A few eminent American spirits, like Emerson, saw its purpose, but Whitman's reputation was largely boosted by English admirers. Swinburne, Rossetti and Anna Gilchrist, all of them simultaneously engaged on rescuing the life and poetry of Blake, saw in Whitman almost a New World reincarnation of their literary hero.

Yet in a sense the Civil War really fashioned Whitman. He visited hospitals and cared for the soldiers coming back injured or ill from the battlefield. He became known as the "wound dresser" and spent hours each day tending to those wounded, giving them presents, hugging them and kissing them. He had a mighty affection for what he called "the common people", especially the male of that species, and his ministrations were an aspect of his devotion to that ideal. Americans believed that he was a comrade; Europeans considered him to be homosexual. Who cares?

His last years were spent between strokes, in egregious efforts of self-promotion. He planted newspaper stories about himself, rewrote books about himself and lied about his past — on several occasions he declared he had been sitting next to Lincoln when the President was shot. But he need not have trumpeted his own worth — his pose as the poet in workman's clothes has become a defining image of American culture. "I sound my barbaric yawp," he wrote, "over the roofs of the world."

WALT WHITMAN
By Jerome Loving
California University Press, £24.95
ISBN 0 520 21427 7



Stupid is as stupid does

THE HINGE FACTOR
By Erik Durschmeid
Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99
ISBN 0 340 72829 9

CHANCE and stupidity, says Durschmeid, are the X-factors that are liable to change history. The best laid plans gang aft agley when overlaid with personal incompetence and plain bad luck. From the crusaders bested by Saladin at the Horns of Hattin to the Gulf War coalition that let Saddam Hussein off the hook, this entertaining book considers the errors and incidents that have shaped the world as we know it rather than as we planned it might be.

Book lovers

EX LIBRIS
By Anne Fadiman
Allen Lane, £9.99
ISBN 0 713 99315 4

WHEN she mingled her books with those of her husband, Anne Fadiman felt truly married. Her take on books is dedicated and domestic, noble and commonplace. Books do not just furnish her rooms, they furnish her life, her work and her family. Her own infant children chow down on books. This collection of witty, charming essays by a bibliophile combine high literary seriousness with sprightly urban American humour.

Spied out

THE SPY'S WIFE
By Janet Coogan
Constable, £16.99
ISBN 0 09 479490 1

WHEN your husband tells you that he is a KGB spy, it explains a lot of weird stuff like having him jump out at you from the airing cupboard where he has been developing a microdot. When Dieter Gerhardt, a South African naval officer, tried to recruit his wife to his second job, she bolted to Ireland, became a novelist and now tells her lonely story — "A True Account Of Marriage To A KGB Master-Spy" — though confusingly in the detached third person.

Space race

THE GIANT LEAP
By Adrian Berry
Headline, £18.99
ISBN 0 7472 1977 X

ADRIAN BERRY takes a running jump at portending not only the future of space travel but the society that will achieve it. Governments hate science that changes things, he says, and they don't want everyone bolting for space and avoiding their taxes. It will be big corporations, scenting profits, which will grab for space. Berry recommends the commercial migratory spirit of the early Polynesians as a model for Star Trekkies.

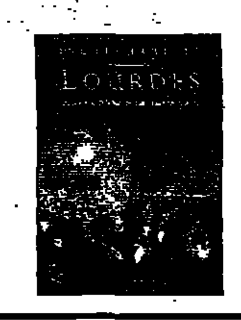
IAIN FINLAYSON

Follow on a journey into faith

What draws pilgrims to Lourdes? What makes them believe St Bernadette can heal them? **Cristina Odone** admires an unbeliever's scrutiny of the shrine

If you are squeamish, avert your eyes: I am about to share with you a truly revolting vignette. At the height of the sentimental hysteria surrounding the new shrine of Lourdes in the late 19th century, a priest called Père Picard who was visiting the shrine asked for a drink. Not ordinary water — instead, he asked a Lourdes stretcher-bearer to fill his glass from a pool filled with the infected blood and scabs of sick pilgrims. He made the sign of the Cross and drank it. "The water of the good Mother of Heaven is always delicious," he said with a beatific smile.

LOURDES
By Ruth Harris
Penguin Press, £25
ISBN 0 713 99186 0



Well, I did warn you. With one telling anecdote, Ruth Harris sums up much of what the outside world finds disturbing about Lourdes. Of course, such a scene is hard to imagine today, in a Lourdes which has become the respectable Catholic shrine par excellence, visited every year by diocesan bishops who would never dream of visiting the far dodgier Fatima or Medjugorje (to which the Church still refuses to grant official recognition). Even so, the sticky deposit of sugary 19th-century French Catholicism still clings to the place. Despite my own Catholic pedigree (convent school, regular churchgoer, former Editor of *The Catholic Herald*), it was not until last year that I went on a pilgrimage to the village in the Pyrenees — not because I suspected that Our Lady, the Virgin Mary never did appear to the young shepherdess Bernadette; rather, I worried that the spiritual soup of handicapped believers, *one-star hostels* and kitschy knick-knacks (my own favourite was a glow-in-the-dark plastic Madonna lighter) might prove indigestible. In the end, despite the crass consumerism of the pilgrimage site, I could not fail to be moved by the tremendous faith of the pilgrims.

Lourdes: Body and Spirit in the Secular Age anatomises with forensic skills the conditions which give rise to the Lourdes phenomenon. Layer after layer is peeled away: the anti-Semitism of the shrine's early political supporters; the Church's crude manipulation of St Bernadette's testimony; the Pyrenean folk myths of "little women" which bear a suspicious resemblance to the apparition itself. Yet Bernadette and her visions emerge unscathed — and so for the most part do the excitable religious impulses of that first generation of pilgrims.

How does Dr Harris achieve this? Through a combination of open-mindedness and exemplary scholarship. Her first chapter, entitled "Town, Region, Family", paints a shockingly vivid picture of the depressed mid-century Pyrenees, a society in which the combination of near-starvation and vivid folklore seem to have overheated the collective psyche of the entire populace.

A lesser historian would have concluded that the case was effectively closed: the depression obviously caused the apparitions. But Ruth Harris steers clear of such easy reductionism. Not only does she refuse to pronounce on the validity of the apparitions, but she calls into question the neat division between superstition and science which disfigures the work of so many modern historians of religion. "Lourdes suggests that this conventional interpretation needs rethinking," she writes. "The shrine's massive appeal alone indicates how much religion remained a crucial part of modernity itself . . . The number and variety of pilgrims, as well as the ability of proponents of the miraculous to argue effectively with the advocates of scientific rationality, makes the phenomenon of pilgrimage more than an instance of antiquated survival."

Dr Harris is not a Catholic. Her perspective, when she set out to write this book, was Jewish and secular, and it remains so today. In the middle of her research, however, she went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes and changed the dressings of the sick. It was this experience, she says, which persuaded her that the *religious* vision of Lourdes, as opposed to its political or its cultural dimensions, should become her central theme. The result is a book which, while dispassionate in tone and critical of the shrine's excesses, captures the authentic magic of Lourdes. It's a miraculous achievement.

COUVENT DE SAINT-GILDARD, NEVERS



The waxed body of St Bernadette who, in 1858, at the age of 14, experienced the vision that made Lourdes famous

IN metro THIS SATURDAY
A walk on the serious side of pop with Salman Rushdie: novelist and rock star

Seth's novel of finely tuned harmonies

CLAIRE MESSUD

AN EQUAL MUSIC
By Vikram Seth
Phoenix House, £16.99
ISBN 1 861591 17 9



A triumphant, epic novel like *A Suitable Boy* poses only one potential difficulty: that, like a too-successful older sibling, it threatens to overshadow the independent merits of its successor. In *An Equal Music*, Vikram Seth, doubtless aware of this risk, has produced a novel half a world and half a century away, and less than half the size of its predecessor. The delicious lightness and wryness of tone prevalent in *A Suitable Boy* are here only intermittently present: this is a graver novel, and one of more complex ambition.

An Equal Music is that most delicate of creatures: a narrative with, at its core, the passion of an art form that lives outside language. Seth's enterprise is to lure into words a musician's experience: in the hearing, in the playing, in the interweaving of music, love and life. This will inevitably result in two tiers of readers: those who, like Seth's characters and like Seth himself, are intimately, perhaps even obsessively, involved with music; and those whose knowledge is partial. For this, more general, reader, at least, Seth succeeds in the rare and beautiful achievement of articulating musical experience.

The novel's narrator, Michael Holme, in his late thirties, is the second violinist [...]

balance not only within that intense foursome, but in his broader life as well: the novel is the story of his rediscovery, after a lonely decade, of his long-lost love from student days in Vienna, the pianist Julia McNicholl. Now married and a mother, she is also going deaf, an ailment she has kept hidden from the world as she continues to perform.

Michael does not need to fall in love with her again: he has never fallen out of it. The culmination of their relationship is a return to their shared Vienna, where Julia will play Schubert's *Trout Quintet* with the Maggiore. In a resonant synaesthetic passage, Michael expresses that experience thus: "The herringboned floor of the hall turns to tarmac: black ebony, white ivory: it is a car park covered with snow, melting into the Serpentine. A slim fish leaps in silver scales from its murky shallows. Each time it emerges it is a variant colour: gold, copper, steel-grey, silver-blue, emerald."

But it is Julia who points out: "Making music and making love — it's a bit too easy an [...]

AMANDA LOVE



Vikram Seth writes with the delicacy of a string quartet

pain and to loss, as well, and to breakdown. After Vienna, there will be Venice, a journey disjointed and unravelling: and there will be London again, in its urban isolations. Bach's *Art of Fugue*, crucial [...]

Equal Music: an intricately patterned contrapuntal echoing of themes, images and rhythms. Late in the book, Seth resorts to a near-Joycean elusiveness and allusiveness to convey Michael's state of [...]

of fugal music of its own is the novel's true triumph.

An Equal Music has its flaws: in places the narrative sags and there are a number of characters too close to type (such as Erica Cowan, the air-kissing agent; or Nicholas Spare, the critic who sighs "Oh, the *Trout*. How sweet. All that tedious charm. I hate the *Trout*. It's so county"). There is an occasional difficulty in the ungraspability of Michael himself, at times cryptically lyrical ("How can I hate Carl any more? After so many years, surely everything is subject to the agents of change: *rain, spores, webs, darkness*"); at times cute ("Helen thumps her left breast and gulps down a glass with an alacrity reminiscent of Captain Haddock").

But in spite of these difficulties *An Equal Music* is, in its *true marriage* of music and words and in its last, extraordinary third, notable and new: it does "what a fugue — especially a quick one — should do: take flight."

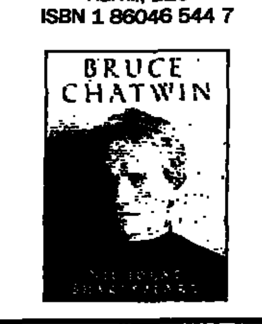
Claire Messud's new novel, The Last Life, will be [...]

BOOKS

His life was the greatest of his works

Duncan Fallowell admires a new biography of Bruce Chatwin that explores the writer, his coteries and his pursuit of loneliness and self-sufficiency

BRUCE CHATWIN
By Nicholas Shakespeare
Harvill, £20
ISBN 1 86046 544 7



How quickly some reputations fade. A mere ten years after his death from Aids, Bruce Chatwin is almost forgotten. My local Waterstone's has only *In Patagonia* on the shelves. Overrated in his lifetime, he is now unjustly dismissed as a fraud and a crank. Nicholas Shakespeare's account should help to correct that. He has been everywhere and spoken to everyone. Nothing is fudged — and about time too, because Chatwin fudged just about everything except the polish on a sentence. The resulting biography is an epic piece of work of immense fascination.

Fortunately for the biographer, Chatwin was a complicated man: neurotic charmer, self-loathing narcissist, seductive and creepy by turns, a late developer who seems to have resembled an hysterical child prodigy. His most complete emotion was loneliness and he moved constantly in order to maintain it, a perfectionist trying to escape messes which included himself. Perhaps motion was the nearest he could come to the cleansing detachment and self-sufficiency he so admired in objects.

The philosophy he lived and wrote by, however, was that of the cornered criminal: that there is no difference between fact and fiction. Aids was the utter embarrassment of such an attitude and his strategy for dealing with it was denial. His defenders say he kept it secret in order to spare his parents the pain. But this is also the ultimate insult to those who loved him longest. He was a very visual man and to Chatwin appearances took precedence over betrayal.

In awe-inspiring detail and with a rounding-out of all the other characters, Shakespeare takes us successively through the milieux of Chatwin's life: childhood in Birmingham, Marlborough College, Sotheby's, Edinburgh University, Afghanistan, the *Sunday Times* Magazine, India, South America, West Africa, literary London, gay New York, Mid Wales, central Australia, death in the South of France. Much of the content is not about Chatwin at all but Shakespeare goes for the biggest possible canvas and just about convinces us for example that, yes, we really do need six pages on Chatwin's wife's ancestors.

Moreover, he does what Chatwin never did and drenches all these worlds in their emotional, human implications. Chatwin is a vivid presence throughout. Indeed, he is far more interesting as a phenomenon than as a writer and Shakespeare doesn't get too sidetracked by the books in themselves. The first book is not published until page 309.

The darling of numerous, often mutually exclusive coteries, Chatwin obviously generated great resentment, too. It is remarkable how much repressed anger is let out here by the army of so-called friends, once they have attested his charisma. Chatwin mocked others but couldn't bear to be teased: he talked furiously so that no one else could get a word in; he was much more loved than loving. There is a sense of the groupies, both straight and gay, at last redressing the balance and this gives the biography a lot of bounce. Even the wife finally speaks up, though not as much as one would have hoped. At the end, she alone remains an enigma.

Our trustworthy guide on this magnificent ghastly safari hardly puts a foot wrong, although my confidence in Shakespeare's judgment was somewhat shaken near the end when I found myself referred to as "a gay activist" on account of having described Chatwin's death as ignoble. Shakespeare's narrative bears me out. The death is not merely sad. Chatwin's refusal to permit his Aids to be acknowledged meant that his dying contaminated those closest to him in a particularly unpleasant way. But my basic point was neither personal nor political but artistic: Chatwin used writing to hide, and that will only get you so far.

One other matter. Chatwin is cooking *poulet à l'ail* for Stella Wilkinson in Shropshire. She tells Shakespeare: "Instead of putting in one garlic clove, he put in 30." She couldn't eat it and says that Chatwin "didn't quite admit he'd got it wrong". Shakespeare doesn't question this. In my experience the French use from 20 up to 30 cloves in this recipe. Of course Bruce got it right.

SALLY SOAMES



Bruce Chatwin's travels took him across the world, a search for the "cleansing detachment" he admired in objects

DIARY & LETTERS

■ POETS have their pride. On Sunday night's Word Festival event in the Barbican Hall in London, *The Poet and the Piper*, Seamus Heaney and uillean piper Liam O'Flynn performed together to marvellous effect. But introducing the sestina Two Lorries, Heaney began a lengthy explanation of the sestina form — then stopped himself. "Why am I telling you all this?" he wondered aloud, then looked slightly rueful. "I know why," and he glanced at O'Flynn. "Because at least you can *see* he's a master at what he does."

■ *THE novelist Alice Thomas Ellis is excited about a screenplay she is writing. It is an adaptation of a novel,* The Corsican Sisters, *by Violet Hunt, a flamboyant feminist of the Twenties. Ellis says that the novel seethes with female vengefulness. A part here for Nicole Kidman, perhaps?*

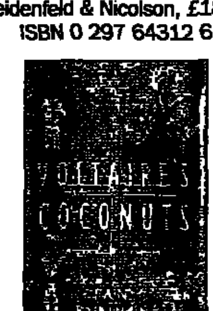
■ BRIAN M. POAG writes from Kent — with a smile on his face. "In her review of Lillie Langtry's biography (Books, March 25), Jeanette Winterson produced a delightful malapropism. What Oscar Wilde called Lillie Langtry was not 'Venus Annodomini' but 'Venus Anadyomene', the epithet for Venus's Greek counterpart. Aphrodite Anadyomene means 'rising', ie, from the sea, describing her birth."

■ JOHN BAYLEY, whose memoir — called *Iris* — of his wife Iris Murdoch has won the Stern Silver Pen Award, has sent a sequel to his publishers, Duckworth. It is called *Iris and her Friends*, and Duckworth says it is as moving as the first book. It will be published in the autumn.

Tea and revolutionaries

JULIA BLACKBURN

VOLTAIRE'S COCONUTS
By Ian Buruma
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99
ISBN 0 297 64312 6



It took me several chapters to warm to this book, but then I warmed to it very much. It gathers steam as it progresses and becomes increasingly profound as well as increasingly funny in a rather black-humoured way. I am not sure if I now have an overall view of Anglomania in Europe, but I am filled with stories of Anglophobes and philes and I have learnt something about the ambivalence of the love, the hate and the passionate longing that perfidious Albion has inspired in so many hearts and minds.

The author himself is from an Anglo-Dutch-German-Jewish family. He was born in The Netherlands but visited England as a child, to stay with his German grandparents who settled here in the 19th century. We meet the grandfather, tending vegetables in the vicarage garden, dressed in tweeds and being quintessentially English in the way that only a true outsider could ever be.

Buruma was haunted by this Arcadian garden of his childhood. The book is both a homage to his own nostalgia and a demythologising of it. He places his grandparents in the context of other foreigners who felt that England was their one true home, even when England persisted in rejecting them. But he also explains why the idea of English freedom and democracy was so important during a time when most Europeans saw their nations being "occupied, humiliated, impoverished or taken over by thugs".

Up until chapter six and the mid-19th century, I found myself curiously disengaged from the narrative. I drifted through Voltaire and his coconut theory, Shakespeare and Prince Pückler-Muskau and his search for the perfect English garden. But when the first in a line of European revolutionaries and refugees arrive, things come to life immediately. Here is Karl Marxhaving a family picnic of ale and cold beef on Hampstead Heath, singing duets with Engels and reciting Shakespeare.

I had never realised that Theodor Herzl, the founder of Zionism, had first dreamt of creating a Jewish homeland under German protection. After an unsatisfactory meeting with the Kaiser, he turned to England, saying in a speech in 1900 that Zionism was a colonial policy in the British imperial style.

Nikolaus Pevsner, refugee and Anglophile, came to Britain in 1935 to escape from Nazi persecution. After the war he covered the length and breadth of the country, assimilating the entire architectural history of a nation with a clarity and passion that no insider could have achieved.

The final member of Buruma's list is Isaiah Berlin. He describes meeting Berlin in a restaurant, where he would procrastinate over the menu before inevitably choosing the same risotto he always chose, while talking about Stephen Spender, Federal Europe, Germany and the Jews and anything else that came to his humanistic mind. To Buruma, he represented the last of the romantics who saw England as the land of the free. His passing marked the end not just of a great man, but of an idea of England.

Buruma returned to this country for the third time in 1990 and was shocked by the xenophobia and the smug complacency which seem to have taken root. He is neither an Anglophobe or phile, but he does appear to be a fair-minded witness of the state we are in and he has the great advantage of not really belonging.

Magic that fits in a pocket

Is your sister an alien? Freddie's is — though as they are fostered, she is more his friend than his sister. In Pete Johnson's ***Eyes of the Alien*** (Corgi, £3.99; ISBN 0 440 86390 2 £3.99), the spooky incidents clustering around Samantha turn out to mean she is being summoned "home" to another planet — but so, in his way, is Freddie, who discovers that his long-absent father has been in prison and now wants to be reunited with his son. As in all good children's books (it's for eight-pluses), a fantasy problem throws light on a real-life problem.

Hooray for Malorie Blackman, the mistress of the computer-generated thrill. ***Dangerous Reality*** (Doubleday, £10.99; ISBN 0 385 40680 0) pits a boy against an amazing robot created by his own mother for use in the nuclear industry but prone to run amok, as these things so often do. Blackman shows off her versatility in another new book, ***Tell Me No Lies*** (Macmillan, £10.99; ISBN 0 333 72645 6), which is even more suspenseful despite having no special effects — no aliens, no ghosts, no fantasy technology. Just two damaged teenagers — a blackmailer and her victim — who discover that the truth can be a deadly weapon.

Not that there is anything wrong with fantasies. You just need to control them, as 11-year-old Cy finds in Theresa Breslin's cheery ***The Dream Master*** (Doubleday, £10.99; ISBN 0 385 41029 8). Cy accidentally brings a friend back with him from his exciting dream about Ancient Egypt, causing confusion and fun at school. Some good scary bits will keep eight-plus readers flipping the pages, and Cy's annoyingly one-track-minded sister, who decides the Egyptian lad's floppy black hair means he's a new type of pop star, is a joy.





Brain food: books instead of chocolate eggs this Easter?

Siobhan Parkinson unpicks the self-absorption of adolescent sisters in her excellent ***Sisters — No Way*** (O'Brien; £4.50; ISBN 0 862 78495 6). Half the book is printed upside down, with each half devoted to the diary of one of a pair of ill-matched stepsisters — aliens to each other in all but name. The fun is that it's pot-luck which diary you read first.

Cindy, 15, is a self-pitying teenager with something to be self-pitying about — her mother has died of cancer. Cindy strikes dramatic poses but the true drama of her life thwarts her. Older, more worldly-wise and more mature, Ashling regards Cindy with amusement and contempt.

You could begin with Cindy's stroppy diary, full of impotent rage, then see her ridiculed in Ashling's account: or read them the other way round, or simultaneously. Each choice gives you a different, razor-sharp book for ages 13 upwards.

Exasperation with self-obsessed, appearance-fixated adolescents may be why Anne Fine wrote ***Charm School*** (Doubleday, £10.99; ISBN 0 385 41047 6). Her sparky heroine, Bonny, is forced to spend a day with a teenaged beauty class. Aaargh! Happily, she sabotages their end-of-term show by taking charge of the stage lighting — with a vengeance. For eight-pluses, mainly girls.

Odo Hirsch's ***Antonio S and the Mystery of Theodore Guzman*** (Allen & Unwin, £4.99; ISBN 1 864 48409 8) has a delicious flavour of magic about it, although nothing magical ever happens. This paradox makes the book magical in its own right — but I fear few children will finish it, because around the one-third mark the story meanders and trickles into the sand.

Antonio lives in a flat in a converted ducal palace (you know the sort of place) and his father is an escapologist, so he is hardly surprised to find a hidden passage leading to the apartment of the uncommunicative Mr Theodore Guzman, once a great actor. A play's the thing, Antonio decides, to thaw the recluse, and staging one, he learns the deepest secrets of drama.

The nine-plus child who persists with this story will find a truly brilliant account of how a play is made; as well as jewel-like images such as that of Mr Guzman's tiny, octagonal theatre, with its wonderful, secretive cabinets filled with miniature stage sets and carved wooden characters.

Elementary, my dear reader

ELAINE FEINSTEIN

PUSHKIN'S BUTTON
By Serena Vitale
Fourth Estate, £16.99
ISBN 1 86702 935 6



In this fascinating account of the last year of Pushkin's life, Professor Serena Vitale has invented a new literary form somewhere between biography and detective story, in which the streets of St Petersburg, or the interiors of houses along Nevsky Prospekt are all equally part of the action. Beautifully written, and crammed with exquisite detail, this book is the work of an artist and a scholar.

Vitale opens with newspaper reports of Pushkin's death in a duel at the age of 37, and these give a sense of the grief felt by the Russian people. That done, Vitale is able to move to her central concern, and here there is a surprise. For it is Baron Georges d'Anthes, vilified by Russians as Pushkin's murderer, whose story concerns Vitale most, from the moment she opens the worn suitcase in an attic, to which a descendant of the Van Heeckeren family had given her access. Within that suitcase lay a cache of letters from d'Anthes, which has already put any biographer of Pushkin in Professor Vitale's debt.

Other writers had guessed at a homosexual attachment between the Dutch Ambassador to St Petersburg, Baron Van Heeckeren, and Georges d'Anthes, the handsome but penniless young Frenchman he presented as his adoptive son. What Georges himself felt, other than gratitude, is only surmise, but there is no longer any doubt that Baron Van Heeckeren was passionately in love with the young man, and that d'Anthes often assured his protector he was equal in his affections to Pushkin's wife, Natalya, whom he was publicly pursuing.

That Natalya flirted outrageously with d'Anthes is not in dispute, though Pushkin believed she was physically innocent. She was reckoned the most beautiful woman at the court of Tsar Nicholas, and saw in d'Anthes the kind of man she might have married if her family had been able to provide a suitable dowry: he was amusing, personable, and an excellent dancer. Vitale sometimes sounds as if she is a little in love with d'Anthes's sunny charm herself. She is rather less sympathetic to Pushkin. She quotes with some relish accounts of his uncontrollable anger, and on one occasion even condemns in her own voice the "meticulous chilling tenacity of his hatred".

Vitale breaks her narrative whenever she wants to set opposing evidence side by side. And mysteries remain, not least the question of who sent the anonymous letters, welcoming Pushkin into an Order of Cuckolds, which precipitated Pushkin's challenge to d'Anthes. That puzzle shows Vitale at her best. She allows us to share her conjectures. The reader is made privy to the ponderings of a mind not only in pursuit of facts, but given to enjoying the invention of possible scenarios. Idiosyncratic as this book may be, Vitale's exploration of the circumstances behind Pushkin's wasteful death is riveting.

Bargains of the week: from breaks in Malvern for chocoholics to late skiing in the French Alps or sightseeing in Shanghai



■ *A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and farther afield, many at bargain prices*

BRITISH ISLES

JERSEY is busy promoting itself as the place to be this spring — and with some justification, as the flowers begin to bloom and the sea turns blue again, *Tony Dawe writes.*

Among many good offers available are three-night breaks at the four-star Hotel La Place, close to St Brelade's Bay, for £267 including return flights from Stansted. The offer continues until April 18 and rooms are available over Easter, although flights may be difficult to find. Details: 01534 744261.

On the bay itself, L'Horizon proposes spring golf breaks from £64 a night for a minimum of two nights. The price, available until May 10 but not over Easter, includes dinner, B&B, car hire and travel to a choice of four courses. Non-golfers can enjoy the health club and sandy beach. Details: 01534 43101.

■ BLENHEIM Palace, one of Britain's stateliest piles, can be visited free on short breaks to The Bear, the old coaching inn in nearby Woodstock, Oxfordshire. Two nights' dinner, B&B costs £120 midweek and £12 more at weekends this month. Details: 01993 811511.

■ FAMILY cycling breaks in Gloucestershire with Compass Holidays this weekend include entry to the Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, currently home to thousands of ducklings and goslings. Two nights' B&B at a country inn plus route guides is £99. Details: 01242 250642.

■ CALLING all chocoholics: two-night breaks at the Foley *Arms Hotel in Malvern*, Worcestershire, include Belgian goodies, chocolate body paint, a visit to Cadbury World and dinner, B&B for £150. Details: 01684 573397.

■ THE FREEDOM of Wales is what next month's Welsh assembly elections are all about — but it is also the title of a new bus and rail pass, which is available from Wales Tourism and also offers discounts at Youth Hostels. A four-day "castles, mountains and coast" itinerary, for example, will cost £58, including the pass and accommodation. Details: 08457 125625.

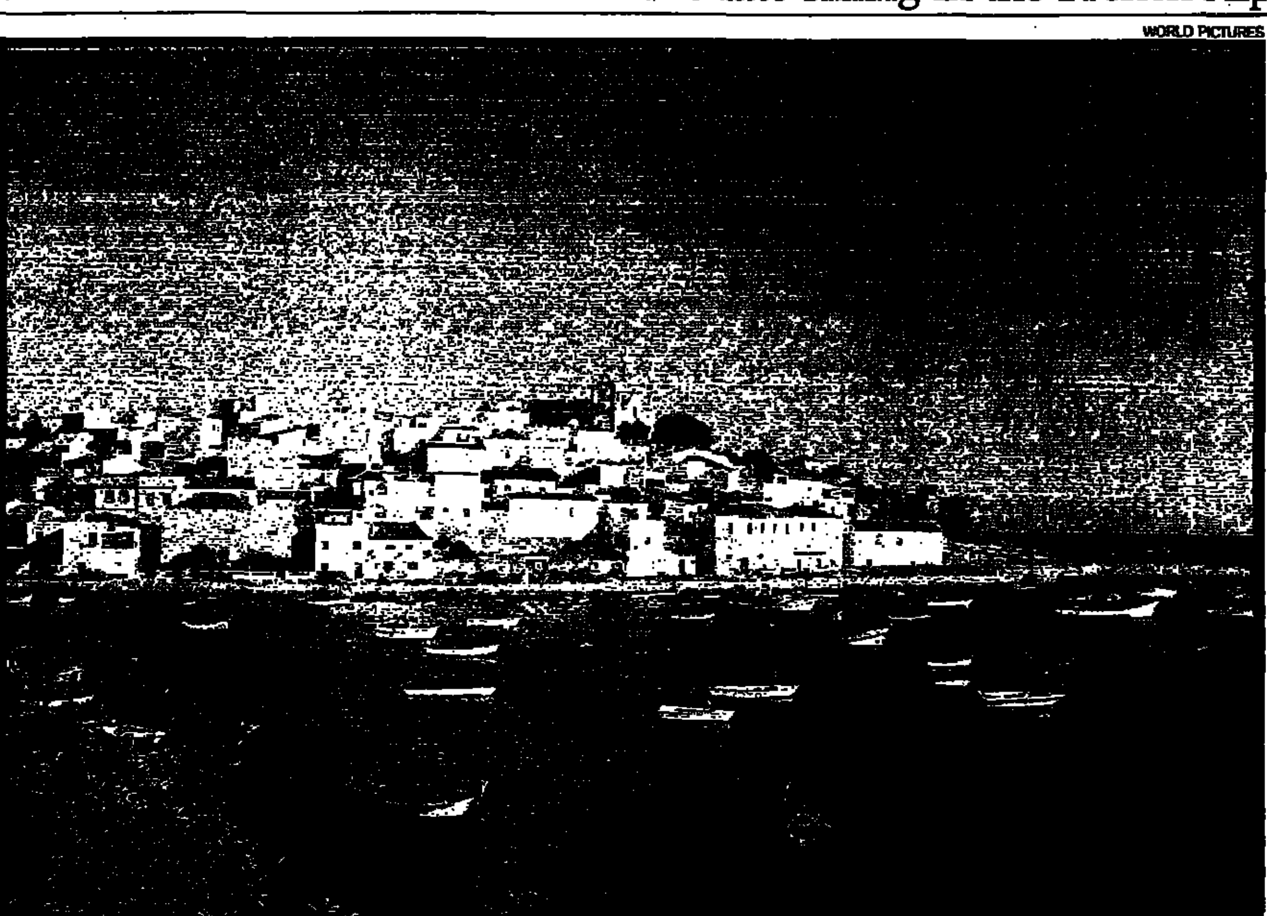
■ IRISH holidays at a discount, for bookings this month, feature in a brochure from Stena Line Holidays. Prices, including ferry travel, range from £68 for two-night farmhouse breaks to £123 for four-day tours to the Giant's Causeway, Londonderry and Armagh. Details: 0990 747474.

■ COTTAGES sleeping four on South Devon farms with leisure facilities are available for £248 a week this month from Toad Hall Cottages. Details: 01548 853089.

WORLD PICTURES


Visit Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire on a short break

WORLD PICTURES


If you are prepared to fly on Easter Day from Manchester, the Algarve is available at just £279 for a fortnight

EUROPE

EASTER holidays are still available at this late hour with a choice of Mediterranean sunshine and Alpine skiing. The best deals to the sun are available from Co-op Travelcare but there are disadvantages: some involve staying for a fortnight and flying on Easter Day.

An Airtours package to the Algarve from Manchester involves just that, but costs only £279 for a fortnight. Ten nights' self-catering on the Costa Brava for £299 and a fortnight in Majorca for £279 are also available with flights from Manchester on Saturday. Details: 0541 500388.

■ SKIING holidays starting on Saturday are on offer with savings of £140 and more from Neilson Ski with a choice of French Alpine resorts ranging from Val Thorens for £349 to Méribel and Courcheval for £399. The prices include return flights from Gatwick and half-board in chalets. Details: 0990 141414.

■ LES MENUIRES, also in the French Alps, should still offer good skiing the following week because it is one of Europe's highest resorts. Ski Independence has a week's self-catering from April 10 for £162 including Channel crossing for car and passengers. Details: 0870-600 1462.

■ ITALY'S "secret" coastal village, Montemarcello, which was cut off from the rest of the Italian Riviera until 40 years ago, is being featured by Invitation to Tuscany. Among properties available in the village is an apartment in a restored olive oil mill overlooking the Magra Valley and white marble mountains. It sleeps four and costs £450 a week from April 10 to May 15. Details: 0121-429 5016.

■ CRUISING through the Mediterranean to the Holy Land is possible from £399 with Seafarer. Fly from Gatwick to the Greek island of Lesbos on April 8 for a week aboard *Aegean I*, including a two-night stop in Rhodes for Greek Easter and visits to Egypt and Israel. Details: 01202 685500.

■ RHODES itself is remarkably cheap between Easter and the start of the summer season and the best prices discovered so far are for self-catering studios in Faliraki. Olympic-Odyssey offers a week with a flight from Gatwick on April 21 for £135 and a fortnight with a flight from Manchester on the same day for £168. Details: 0181-343 9090.

■ SPRING migration in the French Pyrenees, as spectacular birds return to Europe from Africa, can be viewed on a week's trip from April 16 with Wildlife Worldwide. The tour costs £645 including return flights from London, half-board in a mountain inn, car hire and detailed dossiers on the bird and botanical life. Details: 0181-667 9158.

■ COUPLES seeking to escape the Easter rush can take advantage of Eurocamp's offer of a week from April 11 in a luxury mobile home at a campsite near Compiègne for £143, including short Channel crossing. Details: 01606 787878.

■ MADEIRA for a week for £239 is good value for this normally expensive island, especially as it includes half-board at a three-star hotel at Santa Cruz. The Airtours holiday, available from Lunn Poly, begins with a flight from Gatwick on April 14. Details from Holiday Shops.

■ SHORT breaks by rail are highlighted in the New Directions guide, just issued by Rail Europe, and it is full of details about the destinations. Prices for return rail travel from London start from £69 to Lille and £99 to Paris, Rheims and Dijon. Details: 08705 848848.

LONG HAUL

HOLIDAYS in the United States are on offer this week, whether it's the White House gardens, the gaming tables of Las Vegas or the beaches of Florida you wish to explore.

Bill Clinton's back lawn is open, with military bands playing on April 17 and 18, and you can stroll on it courtesy of Funway Holidays, which is offering three nights in Washington from £269, a £120 saving. The package includes return flights from Heathrow and is available from April 12 to 30 but must be booked by April 9 and include a Saturday night. Details: 0181-466 0222.

The Las Vegas deal is available on Sundays this month from April 10, with flights from a choice of UK airports. It involves five nights at the Circus Circus hotel with its free circus acts and Adventuredome theme park, and costs from £309 with Premier Holidays. Details: 01223 516688.

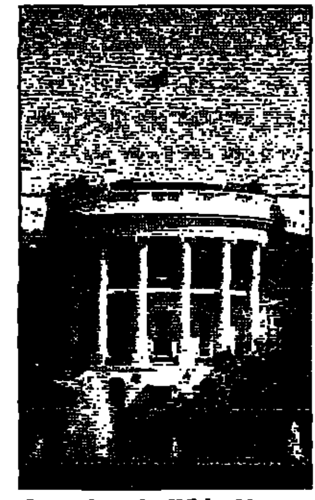
■ FLORIDA flights are on offer from Bon Voyage, with return midweek trips from Gatwick to a choice of destinations, including Key West and West Palm Beach, costing £269. The flights are available in May and June but must be booked by April 10. Child discounts available. Details: 0800-316 0194.

■ CHINA Holidays, on the other side of the world, is offering six nights in Shanghai for £499 as new routes continue to open up the country for tourists. The package, available from May 22 to June 30, includes return Virgin Atlantic flights from Heathrow and B&B at a four-star hotel with day trips to the local sights available from £30 a time. Details: 0171-287 6727.

■ JOHANNESBURG for £328 return with Virgin Atlantic flights from Heathrow is a new offer from Bridge The World. Travel from next week until June 19 but book by April 9. Details: 0171-911 0900.

■ CAIRO for five nights and a week touring northern Egypt are among the deals currently available. The trip to Cairo with Bales Worldwide includes five nights' B&B at a top hotel close to the Pyramids and sightseeing, costs £495 and leaves from Heathrow on May 6. The tour with The Imaginative Traveller costs the same, starts from Heathrow on April 11 and takes in Alexandria, a bicycle tour of Siwa Oasis, Coptic monasteries and Cairo. Entrance fees and some meals are included. Details: Bales, 01306 732718; Imaginative Traveller, 0181-742 8612.

■ TRACE the footsteps of Ernest Hemingway in Old Havana with Direct Line Holidays, which offers a week in the city from £499 with a flight from Heathrow on April 10 and B&B at the Hotel Inglaterra. Details: 0181-239 3399.


Imposing: the White House

■ THAILAND is associated with many bizarre activities but golf has not been one of them — until now. Asian Explorer is promoting golfing holidays to the country, including a week at Pattaya for £673 with return scheduled flights and three 18-hole rounds at different courses. Details: 01481 823417.

● *All prices are per person and based on two travelling together and sharing a room.*



See *The Times* on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays

Discrimination against disabled people

Clark v TDG Ltd, trading as Novacold

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment March 25]

Less favourable treatment of a disabled person was discriminatory under section 5(1) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 only if it was unjustified. Treatment was less favourable if the reason for it did not or would not apply to others.

In deciding whether that reason did not or would not apply to others, it was not appropriate to make a comparison of the cases in the same way as in the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the Race Relations Act 1976. It was simply a case of identifying others to whom the reason for the treatment did not or would not apply.

The test of less favourable treatment was based on the reason for the treatment of the disabled person and not on the fact of his disability. It did not turn on a like-for-like comparison of the treatment of the disabled person and of others in similar circumstances.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing the appeal of Mr Darren Clark, to the limited extent that there was less favourable treatment of him within section 5(1)(a) of the 1995 Act but that there was no need to remit that question to the industrial tribunal who had held to the contrary, on August 21, 1997, when dismissing his claim for unfair dismissal, against the defendants, Novacold; but that the question of justification of his dismissal should be remitted for rehearing to the same tribunal.

Section 5 of the 1995 Act provides: "(1) For the purposes of this Part, an employer discriminates against a disabled person if - (a) for a reason which relates to the disabled persons disability, he treats him less favourably than he treats or would treat others to whom that reason does not or would not apply; and (b) he cannot show that the treatment in question is justified."

Mr Robin Allen, QC and Mr Neil Cameron for Mr Clark; Mr Peter Oldham for Novacold.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that on the employee's appeal, the Employment Appeal Tribunal on May 22, 1998 had directed that the case be remitted to the tribunal, but both sides had objected to that order and appealed to the Court of Appeal.

This was the first case to come before the court on the 1995 Act. The facts of the case were simple. The law was novel. The arguments were complicated.

Mr Clark allegedly suffered an injury while working for the defendants at a job which was physically demanding. Novacold paid him full sick pay for 16 weeks before dismissing him after receiving a report from an orthopaedic consultant that he was unable to state when it would be possible for him to return to work.

The industrial tribunal dismissed his complaint, finding that he was not treated less favourably than Novacold would treat others absent from work for reasons other than disablement but that, if contrary to their view, there had been less favourable treatment, it would not have been justified.

The tribunal dismissed Novacold's contention that the reason did not relate to Mr Clark's disability.

Contrary to what might reasonably be assumed, the exercise of interpreting the provisions of the 1995 Act was not facilitated by familiarity with the pre-existing legislation prohibiting discrimination in the field of employment, and elsewhere, on the grounds of sex and race.

Indeed it might be positively misleading to approach the 1995 Act with assumptions and concepts familiar from experience with the workings of the 1975 and 1976 Acts.

Unlike the earlier discrimination Acts, the 1995 Act did not draw the crucial distinction between direct and indirect discrimination on specified grounds.

It provided a defence of justification to less favourable treatment which would constitute direct discrimination and be without a defence under the earlier Acts: and it did not replicate the express requirement of the 1975 Act (section 5(3)) and the 1976 Act (section 3(4)) that, when a comparison of the cases of persons of different sex or persons of different racial groups fell to be made, the comparison had to be such that the relevant circumstances in the one case were the same, or not materially different, in the other.

One consequence of those differences was that the terms "discriminate" and "discrimination" were not used in the same sense as in the earlier Acts. Failure to discern that difference in meaning in decision-making, and in commentaries on both the 1995 Act and on decisions under it, could lead to serious conceptual confusion.

In Part II of the 1995 Act "discrimination" was defined as less favourable treatment which was not shown to be justified. If the less favourable treatment of a disabled person was shown to be justified it was not discrimination within the Act.

That was to be contrasted with the 1975 Act and the 1976 Act under which a person directly discriminated against another if, on the specified ground of race or sex, he treated that other less favourably than he treated or would treat other persons. Justification did not enter into it.

His Lordship said it was clear from the finding of the tribunal that Mr Clark had been dismissed for a reason relating to disability. The question that remained was whether Novacold treated him less favourably than they would treat others to whom that reason would not apply. What was meant by that reason?

In the context of the special sense in which "discrimination" was defined in section 5 of the 1995 Act it was more probable that Parliament meant that reason to refer only to the facts constituting the reason for the treatment, and not to include within that reason the added requirement of a causal link with disability: that was more properly regarded as the cause of the reason for the treatment than as in itself a reason for the treatment.

That interpretation avoided the difficulties which would be encountered in many cases in seeking to identify what the appeal tribunal referred to as the characteristics of the hypothetical comparator.

It would avoid the kind of problems which the English and Scottish courts and tribunals encountered in their futile attempts to find and identify the characteristics of a hypothetical non-pregnant male comparator for a pregnant woman in sex discrimination cases before the decision of the European Court of Justice in *Webb v Emo Air Cargo (UK) Ltd* (Case 32/93) ([1994] QB 718): see also Webb v Emo Air Cargo (UK) Ltd (No 2) ([1995] 1 WLR 1454).

That interpretation was also consistent with the emphasis on whether the less favourable treatment of the disabled person was shown to be justified. That defence was not available in cases of direct discrimination under the other discrimination Acts.

On Mr Clark's interpretation of section 5(1), the reason for his dismissal would not apply to others who were able to perform the main functions of their jobs. He had been treated less favourably than those others.

He was dismissed for being unable to perform the main functions of his job. The others would not be dismissed for that reason.

However, that did not necessarily mean that Mr Clark had been discriminated against. It was open to Novacold to show that the dismissal was justified. The question was: was the less favourable treatment of Mr Clark shown to be justified under section 5(1)(b)?

There was an error of law in the reasoning of the tribunal which made it necessary to remit the question of justification for rehearing. The tribunal appeared to have overlooked paragraph 6-21 of Code of Practice: Disability Discrimination, (1996), issued pursuant to section 53 of the 1995 Act, which provided:

"Dismissal, including compulsory retirement, of a disabled person for a reason relating to disability would need to be justified and the reason for it would have to be one which could not be removed by any reasonable adjustment. It would be justifiable to terminate the employment of an employee whose disability makes it impossible for him any longer to perform the main functions of his job, if an adjustment such as a move to a vacant post elsewhere in the business is not practicable or otherwise not reasonable for the employer to make."

Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Beldam agreed.

Solicitors: Stamp Jackson & Procter, Hull; Clarks, Reading.

VAT treatment of out-of-country supplies

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Liverpool School of Performing Arts

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Judge and Lord Justice Tuckey

[Judgment March 17]

The provisions of Part V of the Value Added Tax (General) Regulations (SI 1985 No 886) required out-of-country supplies not to be treated as taxable supplies for the purpose of identifying the basis on which input tax was to be apportioned between taxable and exempt supplies.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise from Mr Justice Carnwath (*The Times*, February 10, 1998; [1998] STC 274) who upheld a decision of a VAT tribunal in respect of a ruling of the commissioners that certain supplies made by the taxpayer, Liverpool School of Performing Arts, now Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, were not to be treated as taxable supplies for the purposes of calculating the deductible proportion of input tax.

Mr Kenneth Parker, QC, who did not appear below, and Miss Philippa Whipple for the commissioners; Mr Roderick Cordara, QC and Mrs Perdita Cargill-Thompson for the taxpayer.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the appeal raised a question on the interaction of regulation 30, on attribution of input tax to taxable supplies, and regulation 32, on attribution of input tax to foreign and specified supplies, of the 1985 Regulations.

The legislation distinguished between various categories of supplies. Output tax was charged on taxable supplies of goods and services made in the United Kingdom by a taxable person in the course of his business, credit being given for input tax charged on goods and services supplied to him and attributable either to his taxable supplies or to supplies outside the United Kingdom which would be taxable supplies if made in the United Kingdom; referred to as out-of-country supplies.

On the other hand credit was not given for the input tax attributable to exempt supplies. Thus when a taxable person who made both taxable and exempt supplies incurred expenses which were not attributable exclusively to one category or the other, the obvious example being the overheads of running his business as a whole, the input tax charged thereon, commonly called "residual input tax", had to be apportioned.

In the present case the taxpayer had made taxable, out-of-country and exempt supplies and the question required the identification of the basis on which the residual input tax should be apportioned between them.

The relevant legislation, brought into being consequent on the European Sixth Directive (77/388/EEC) (OJ 1977L145/1), was the Value Added Tax Act 1983 as supplemented by the 1985 Regulations.

Section 15 of the 1983 Act provided for allowable input tax.

By section 15(3) the commissioners were empowered to make regulations for "securing a fair and reasonable attribution of input tax" to taxable supplies and out-of-country supplies.

It was important to emphasise that, although a taxable person who made out-of-country supplies had a right to deduct input tax attributable to those supplies, they were not themselves taxable supplies.

The 1985 Regulations, made pursuant to the power contained in section 15(3), made provision in regulation 30 for the attribution of input tax to taxable supplies.

The question for decision arose out of regulation 30(2)(d) which provided that a proportion of the input tax which could not be exclusively attributed in accordance with the preceding subparagraphs, that is, a proportion of the residual input tax, should be attributable to taxable supplies in accordance with a formula multiplying residual input tax with the value of taxable supplies divided by the value of all supplies.

The dispute between the parties centred on what was included in "all supplies" in the denominator of that fraction. Did it, as the taxpayer had twice successfully contended include not only taxable and exempt supplies but also out-of-country supplies? Or was it, as the commissioners contended, limited to taxable and exempt supplies?

Mr Parker started from the proposition that "taxable supplies" in regulation 30(2) did not include out-of-country supplies. He then pointed to regulation 30(2)(c) which precluded input tax on goods and services used or to be used exclusively either in making exempt supplies or "in carrying on any activity other than making exempt supplies" from being attributed to taxable supplies.

Since, he submitted, making out-of-country supplies was an activity other than the making of taxable supplies, it was clear that input tax attributable to out-of-country supplies was excluded from regulation 30(2) and it would thus be anomalous to include the value of such supplies in the denominator of the fraction under regulation 30(2)(d).

The logic of Mr Parker's argument was impressive and should be adopted. The true intendment and effect of regulation 30(2)(d) was not in doubt and there was no need to resort to the Sixth Directive as an aid to construction.

Lord Justice Judge and Lord Justice Tuckey agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Crocker Oswald Hickson.

Wife can end tenancy without husband

Sanctuary Housing Association v Campbell

Before Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Potter

[Judgment March 18]

A wife, the sole tenant of a maisonette, was entitled to surrender her contractual tenancy by operation of law although her husband was living in the property at all material times.

Section 1 of the Matrimonial Homes Act 1983 did not restrict her right to surrender nor vest in the husband indefinite rights of occupation of the former matrimonial home only terminable by an order under section 1(2)(a) or otherwise within the court's jurisdiction.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of the defendant, Donald Campbell, against the order of Mr Assistant Recorder Nicholas Warren, QC, in Edmonton County Court on August 8, 1998, after the hearing of preliminary issues and granting declarations that the defendant's wife was entitled to surrender her tenancy of 38 Belmont Road, South Tottenham, London to the plaintiff housing association and that the defendant's rights of occupation under the 1983 Act at the time of surrender were not binding on the plaintiff.

The housing association granted the wife a secure weekly tenancy of the three-bedroom maisonette in April 1990 which she occupied with her three children and the defendant, whom she married in July 1995. She and the children left in September 1996 allegedly as a result of his violence.

The housing association, refusing to accept the defendant as a tenant, required vacant possession when their tenant was re-housed. In January 1997 the wife told the housing association she had been re-housed and was giving up the tenancy, and since she was unable to take her property out of the premises as the locks had been changed, she returned the keys to the plaintiff, which then wrote to the defendant requiring him to leave.

Miss Julia Smart for the defendant; Mr Anthony Tanney for the housing association.

LORD JUSTICE THORPE said that on the agreed facts there was a surrender of the contractual tenancy by operation of law when the wife re-housed herself and did all she could to comply with the plaintiff's request to vacate the premises and return the keys; her allegedly violent husband was in possession and denying her access.

Miss Smart, conceding that the defendant would have no defence to the plaintiff's claim for possession if he had not been married to their tenant, relied on *Hoggett v Hoggett* ((1979) 39 P & CR 121).

His Lordship said that, superficially, that case supported her proposition that for there to be a surrender by operation of law there had to be a delivery of possession by the tenant, and that the tenant could make no valid surrender if the spouse remained in occupation.

Mr Tanney submitted that such a proposition had been arrived at by concession in that case (p127) and derived from two cases decided under the common law: *Old Gate Estates Ltd v Alexander* ([1950] 1 KB 311) and *Middleton v Baldock* ([1950] 1 KB 657).

His Lordship said that it was important to emphasise that all three cases considered the position of separated spouses whose matrimonial home prior to separation were the subject of tenancies controlled by the Rent Acts, under which members of the tenant's family enjoyed statutory protection, only being subject to eviction in very restricted circumstances.

In the present case, the contractual tenancy was simply a secure tenancy within the Housing Act 1985, the effect of which was only to restrict the circumstances in which the landlord might pursue unilateral termination.

The dicta of Lord Justice Denning in the two latter cases were of no surviving force in relation to a contractual secure tenancy where the rights of the spouses were controlled by the Matrimonial Homes Act 1983.

Also, the *Hoggett* case was distinguishable: not only was the court there concerned with a Rent Act tenancy, the proposition relied on by Miss Smart was founded on the concession made in that case which in turn was founded upon the two earlier cases.

Any right that the defendant might have to continuing occupation had to derive from the 1983 Act, now re-enacted in the Family Law Act 1996. Miss Smart contended that section 1(1)(a) of the 1983 Act was wide enough to protect the defendant not only from eviction by the wife but also from the plaintiff's otherwise lawful entitlement to possession.

Thus, any purported surrender or termination in order to be effective had to be preceded by application to the court for an order terminating the defendant's rights under section 1(2)(a).

Mr Tanney submitted that any rights of occupation the defendant derived from the Act had to be dependent on the existence of a contractual right of occupation in the other spouse, so that the logical development of the defendant's submission was that the wife remained the tenant entitled to occupation and liable for rent despite the surrender effected in 1997.

In his Lordship's view that would be manifestly absurd. There was nothing within section 1 to restrict the wife's right to terminate her contractual relationship with the plaintiff, and nothing within that section to vest in the defendant indefinite rights of occupation of the former matrimonial home only terminable by an order under section 1(2)(a) or otherwise within the court's jurisdiction.

The section was plainly intended to operate to regulate the rights of spouses inter se. The defendant had neither registered a class F land charge, under section 2(7) of the Land Charges Act 1972, nor initiated any proceedings against his wife under the 1983 Act. He sought no relief against her until filing a petition for dissolution in September 1997 at which date pleadings in the possession action were already closed.

As regards the defendant's right to register, it was common ground that, despite the failure to register, the tenancy was kept alive for the purposes of preserving the charge for so long as it would have continued had the tenancy not been surrendered, unless the plaintiff gave valuable consideration for the surrender.

His Lordship preferred Mr Tanney's submission that surrender was an essentially consensual process under which the parties invariably negotiated the basis on which their contractual relationship was to end.

The plaintiff made it plain it would not release the wife from her continuing liability for the rent of the premises until she returned them to their possession in the manner stipulated.

She met her side of the bargain in so far as she was able and to the plaintiff's satisfaction. The release the plaintiff thereupon granted was effectively the price that the plaintiff paid to liberate the premises from her tenancy.

Lord Justice Potter agreed.

Solicitors: Martin Shepherd & Co, Enfield; Stafford Young Jones.

Invoking asset-freezing jurisdiction

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Anchor

Before Mr Justice Neuberger

[Judgment February 26]

The court could invoke the Mareva (asset freezing) jurisdiction even where a defendant proposed to effect a bona fide transfer of assets for a price in accordance with a valuation from an independent and respectable firm of accountants.

However, a Mareva injunction represented a very serious interference with a defendant's freedom and the court should not be too ready to grant such relief in the context of a bona fide transaction.

Mr Justice Neuberger so held in the Chancery Division when granting the plaintiffs, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise, an interim Mareva injunction against the defendants, Anchor Foods Ltd.

Mr Richard McCombe, QC, Mr Paul Girolami and Miss Amanda Tipples for the commissioners; Mr David Pannick, QC, Mr Adam Lewis and Miss Sandra Bristoll for Anchor.

MR JUSTICE NEUBERGER said that defendants, who processed, distributed and sold New Zealand butter and other dairy products, received post clearance demand notes from the plaintiffs totalling £264 million. They intended to transfer their entire business to a new company formed for the purpose, New Zealand Milk (UK) Ltd, leaving behind the debt owed to the plaintiffs.

Ernst and Young, accountants, had assessed the market value of the net assets and business of the defendants in the range of £8 to £10.5 million. Accordingly, a transfer price to NZM was arranged in the sum of £9 million.

The plaintiffs instructed their own accountants who came to the conclusion that the defendants' business was worth substantially more than the figure estimated by Ernst and Young.

Proceedings were commenced for the payment of customs duty and the plaintiffs sought an interim injunction to restrain the proposed transfer of the defendants' business until after the judgment.

Mr Pannick contended that it was inappropriate to invoke the Mareva injunction jurisdiction in circumstances where the defendants proposed a bona fide transfer of assets following a valuation from an independent and respectable firm of accountants.

His Lordship said that he did not accept that the fact that the proposed sale was at a price which was in accordance with the independent valuation of one of the top firms of chartered accountants prevented the court from interfering with the transaction.

Under section 37(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 a Mareva injunction could be granted if the court considered it "just and convenient to do so". His Lordship said that he could see no reason in principle or commercial common sense to fetter that jurisdiction. However, the bona fides of the transaction was a strong factor that could be relied on by the defendants on the issue of discretion.

The purpose of the Mareva injunction was to afford protection to persons whose claim was good and arguable. However, it was not to be used so as to impede or interfere with a defendants' ordinary, bona fide business transactions.

A Mareva injunction represented a very serious interference with the defendants' freedom and the court should not be too ready to grant such relief in the context of a bona fide transaction.

In the instant case, however, there was not an arms' length sale by the defendants of an asset in the open market. It was a transfer of the whole of the defendants' undertaking to a new party formed for the purpose and owned by the person who effectively owned the defendants. It was also a transfer effected because of the existence of the very claim that the plaintiffs relied on in the proceedings.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Dibb Lupton Alsop.

Refusing consent for undesirable purpose

Ashworth Frazer Ltd v Gloucester City Council

Before Mr David Donaldson, QC

[Judgment February 24]

It might be reasonable for a landlord to refuse consent to the assignment of a lease where the landlord apprehended that the proposed assignee intended to use the premises for an undesirable purpose, whether or not the proposed user was also prohibited by the terms of the lease. The existence of a right to enjoin the assignee at a later date could, however, be relevant to the equation of reasonableness where the intention to use the premises for a prohibited purpose was subject to a significantly uncertain contingency.

Mr David Donaldson, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division, so held in a reserved judgment deciding as preliminary issues:

(i) that the only permitted uses of the premises situated in the south-eastern corner of the site of the old cattle market in Gloucester and demised by the defendant, Gloucester City Council, under a lease dated April 28, 1969 were those set out in classes III, IV or X of the Town and Country (Use Classes) Order (SI 1963 No 708);

(ii) that if the user proposed by Mountstar Metal Corporation Ltd, the intended assignee of the plaintiff, Ashworth Frazer Ltd, would constitute a breach of the lease then that did not of itself render unreasonable the defendant's objection to the proposed assignment.

Mr Kim Lewison, QC, for the plaintiff; Mr Nigel Davis, QC and Mr Andrew Westwood for the

HIS LORDSHIP said that the council was the freehold owner of land and buildings at the site of the old cattle market in Gloucester.

On April 28, 1969 it granted a development lease of 14.5 acres there site for 114 years from December 25, 1968, which was divided up into parcels through deeds of severance and assignment to various tenants, each holding direct from the landlord under the terms of the lease, the rent having been apportioned.

In September 1973 the plaintiff took an assignment from Kentron Plastics Ltd of the southeastern corner of the site. The lease contained the usual lessee's covenant not to assign the demised premises without the consent of the lessor, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld.

On May 13, 1997, on the application of Mountstar Metal Corporation, the defendant as the local planning authority granted permission for the use of the premises for metal recycling. On July 16, 1997 the plaintiff requested the defendant's consent to the assignment to Mountstar of the unexpired term of its lease.

On September 16, 1997 the defendant refused on the ground that the use of the premises intended by Mountstar would be in breach of the user restrictions in the lease, which inter alia confined the tenant to uses within use classes III, IV or X of the 1963 Order, namely:

"Class III - Use as a light industrial building for any purpose.

"Class IV - Use as a general industrial building for any purpose.

"Class X - Use as a wholesale warehouse or repository for any purpose."

son's contention, based on *Killick v Second Covent Garden Property Co Ltd* ([1973] 1 WLR 658), that the landlord's fear that a proposed assignee would or might break a restriction on use was not a proper ground for refusing consent to the assignment.

While it might sometimes be reasonable for a landlord to refuse his consent to an assignment on the ground of the use proposed by the assignee even though that user was not prohibited by the lease (see: *International Drilling/Fluids Ltd v Louisville Investments (Uxbridge) Ltd* ([1986] Ch 513, 520)), the power to enjoin the assignee's user depended upon whether it was in breach of the head lease.

It was less obvious that the ability to deploy that weapon must be treated as automatically rendering unreasonable any objection by the landlord to the assignment which absent that advantage would otherwise have been reasonable.

In *Killick* the lessee covenanted not to use premises in the City of London for any purpose other than printing. The lease also contained the usual covenant against assignment without the consent of the landlord not to be unreasonably withheld.

When it became unprofitable to carry on a printing business from the premises, the lessee and underlessee sought consent for an assignment to an assignee who proposed to apply for planning permission as offices and then to convert them for that purpose, the landlord refused.

The Court of Appeal held that the landlord's refusal of consent was unreasonable because the

signment did not necessarily involve a breach of covenant. The landlord was in the same position to enforce the user covenant against the assignee as against its present tenant.

However, the landlord could reasonably refuse consent to an assignment which would necessarily involve a breach of covenant: see *Packaging Centre Ltd v Poland Street Estate Ltd* ((1961) 178 EG 189), *Granada TV Network Ltd v Great Universal Stores Ltd* ((1963) 187 EG 391).

Killick was not authority for the proposition that nothing else could suffice in a case where a sub-lease or, axiomatically, an assignment did not itself specify a user prohibited by the lease.

Applying *International Drilling*, there was no reason why withholding consent in such cases might not be reasonable where the landlord apprehended that the proposed assignee intends to use the premises for an undesirable purpose.

The existence of the right to enjoin the assignee at a later date could, depending on other features of the particular case, be relevant to the equation of reasonableness, for example where the intention to use the premises for the prohibited purpose was subject to a significantly uncertain contingency, as in *Killick* where planning permission had not been obtained for the change of use, but that was not the same as an absolute bar to the refusal of consent, the proposal contended for by the plaintiff which the court rejected.

Solicitors: Rowe & Maw; Sharpe Pritchard for Mr Gerry Spencer

Landlord's right to double rent

Ballard (Kent) Ltd v Oliver Ashworth (Holdings) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, *Lord Justice Robert Walker and* Lord Justice Laws

[Judgment March 18]

A landlord's right to double rent under section 18 of the Distress for Rent Act 1737 (11 Geo 2, c 19) only arose where the tenant held over after serving a valid notice to quit and was in fact a trespasser and the landlord treated him as such.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, allowing two appeals by the tenant, Oliver Ashworth (Holdings) Ltd, against the decisions of Judge Rich, QC, sitting as a Chancery Division judge on May 8 *and June 25, 1998,* giving judgment for the landlord, Ballard (Kent) Ltd, in respect of two summonses issued by it under Order 14A of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The first summons posed the question whether demanding or accepting rent due before or after the expiry of the lease pursuant to the break clause amounted to a waiver of the landlord's right to demand and receive double rent pursuant to the 1737 Act.

The second summons posed questions on the true construction of the lease and the 1737 Act.

Section 18 of the 1737 Act provides:

"And whereas great inconveniences have happened and may happen to landlords whose tenants have power to determine their leases, by giving notice to quit the premises by them holden, and yet *refusing to deliver up the possession* when the landlord hath agreed with another tenant for the same: Be it further enacted ... that ... in case any tenant ... shall give notice of his ... intention to quit the premises by him ... holden, at a time mentioned in such notice, and *shall not accordingly deliver up the* possession thereof at the time in such notice contained, that then the said tenant ... shall ... pay to the landlord ... double the rent or sum which he ... should otherwise have paid, to be levied, sued for, and recovered at the same times and in the same manner as the single rent or sum, before the giving such notice, could be levied, sued for, or recovered; and such double rent or sum shall continue to be paid during all the time such tenant ... shall continue in possession..."

Mr Jonathan Brock, QC and Mr Philip Rainey for the tenant; Mr Paul Morgan, QC and Mr Nicholas Taggart for the landlord.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER *said that by a lease dated* March 25, 1986 made between the landlord's and the tenant's predecessors in title, commercial premises were demised for 20 years.

The lease contained a tenant's covenant, in standard form, to yield up the demised premises at end of the term, an option for the tenant to determine the lease at the expiration of the first 10 years and six months by giving at least six months previous notice in writing prior to the determination date. A further clause required the payment of rent for 12 months after any operation of the break notice by the tenant.

By a letter dated March 5, 1996 the tenant's solicitors gave notice of the tenant's intention to determine the lease as at September 25, 1996. The notice should have specified September 24.

On September 23, the landlord's solicitors wrote to the tenant's solicitors contending that the notice was invalid and that the tenant remained bound for the full duration of the lease. They relied on the Court of Appeal decision in *Mannai Investment Co Ltd v Eagle Star Life Assurance Co Ltd* ([1995] 1 WLR 1508). They stated, alternatively, that if the break notice was valid and the tenant failed to vacate the premises, the landlord would be entitled to collect double rent under section 18 of the 1737 Act.

The tenant remained in occupation and the landlord demanded payment of a quarter's rent and subsequently issued a writ claiming arrears of rent.

The tenant sought a declaration that the lease terminated on September 24 and the landlord challenged the validity of the notice and added alternative claims, inter alia, that the tenant had wrongfully failed to give up possession, was a trespasser, and was liable to pay double rent under the 1737 Act.

By an amended defence and counterclaim the tenant pleaded waiver by election of any claim under the 1737 Act.

Following the House of Lords decision in *Mannai* ([1997] AC 749) the tenant obtained a declaration that the lease was *determined on* September 24, 1996.

The judge determined all the questions posed in the two Order 14A summonses in the landlord's favour.

Mr Brock, relying on *Doe d Cheny v Batten* ((1775) 1 Cowp 243) and *Dendy v Nicholl* ((1858) 4 CB (NS) 376), submitted that by demanding and suing for rent the landlord elected to waive the right to double rent under the 1737 Act.

Mr Morgan submitted correctly that *Doe d Cheny v Batten* was devoid of analysis or reasoning. He further submitted that *Dendy v Nicholl had nothing to do with the* 1737 Act or with the situation where a landlord, so far from having any right to forfeit a lease, unsuccessfully challenged the validity of a tenant's notice to quit.

In such a situation the landlord might think that he was in a posi*tion to decide whether or not to* stand on his strict rights. But that would not be a true case of elective waiver.

Mr Morgan was right in submitting that the tenant could not succeed on the principle of elective waiver, because the present case was not a really a case of common law election at all.

His Lordship agreed with Lord Justice Laws on the issue of statutory construction.

LORD JUSTICE LAWS said that common law waiver, or waiver by election, proceeded upon the premise that the party said to be fixed by the waiver must have possessed two or more substantive but inconsistent rights.

In such a case, his choice by overt act communicated to the other party to rely on one such right precluded him from later claiming the benefit of another.

Here, the landlord had no such choice of substantive rights whatever. The tenant's break notice was good. Accordingly, the landlord possessed no right to treat the tenancy as continuing.

However, the question whether the landlord was entitled to double rent under section 18 of the 1737 Act turned, not on any question of waiver, but on the correct interpretation of that statute.

The first question was whether the enacting words in section 18, apart from the preamble and recital, plainly and unambiguously expressed the scope of the right to double rent.

Did they make it clear *that the right arose even where the tenant* held over in circumstances where the landlord himself asserted that the tenancy was continuing? His Lordship did not think that they did.

The enacting words, looked at in isolation, raised the question as to *the intended scope of the right and* it followed that the court had to ascertain the true scope from the statute as a whole, read with the Landlord and Tenant Act 1731 (4 Geo 2, c 28), as being in pari materia.

That connection between the two statutes assisted Mr Brock's submission that section 18 was only dealing with the case where the landlord treated the tenant, or rather, ex-tenant, as a trespasser.

The 1731 Act *addressed specifically* the situation where a landlord had given notice to quit and the tenant wilfully held over. Nothing was more obvious that the statutes concern to redress the wrong to a landlord arising where his tenant continued in occupation as a trespasser, and where that was the very fact of which the landlord complained.

It was plain that section 18 of the 1737 Act was concerned with the same mischief.

The appeal ought to be concluded in the tenant's favour on the distinct basis that the right to double rent conferred by section 18 only arose where (a) the tenant holding over after his own notice to quit was in fact a trespasser, thus, the notice had to be valid, and (b) the landlord treated him as such. Any other case departed from the plain purpose of the section.

Reading the 1731 and 1737 Acts as a whole, including the latter's preamble and recitals, it was entirely clear that the legislature was concerned only to compensate landlords for the potential loss of rent arising where a tenant held over against the landlord's insistence that he should comply with his own notice to quit.

On the undisputed facts the claim for double rent lay outwith the right conferred by section 18.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith agreed.

Solicitors: Rowe & Maw; Cripps Harries Hall.

Legal aid duty to disclose all material facts

Regina v Legal Aid Board, Ex parte Parsons

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Mantell

[Judgment March 24]

The duty of a person applying for legal aid to disclose all material facts was analogous to that of an applicant for insurance, with the Legal Aid Board being invited to underwrite the risks of litigation at public expense. A decision by the board to revoke a legal aid certificate on the ground of non-disclosure should be regarded as an administrative rather than a punitive decision.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the applicant, Edmund James Parsons, against the refusal of Mr Justice Laws on November 17, 1997, to grant judicial review of a decision of the area committee of the Legal Aid Board on April 25, 1996, affirming the board's decision on March 11, 1996, to revoke a legal aid certificate previously granted to the applicant in connection with proposed litigation against his former employers.

That litigation was subsequently dismissed for failure to comply with *procedural requirements,* leaving the applicant with a bill of costs estimated at £14,000.

The ground given by the board for revoking the legal aid certificate was: "The assisted person has *made an untrue statement as to his/* her resources or has failed to disclose a material fact concerning them."

When completing the legal aid application form in January 1993, the applicant was asked: "Do you or your partner have any savings? By savings we mean money in things like: Banks; Building Societies; Premium Bonds; Post Office; cash at home but not National Savings Certificates." The applicant ticked the box marked "No".

Another question was: "Do you or your partner have any life insurance or endowment policies? Do not include policies linked to your mortgage or small policies paid weekly." Again, the applicant ticked the box marked "No".

As a result of representations made by the defendant employers, the board asked the applicant to produce copies of his bank statements. Those showed that at the time he signed the application form he had £3,708.26 in his joint account at the bank.

He also had a pension policy which was cashed in February 1993, providing a lump sum of £1,792.71 and monthly pension pay*ments of £45.66. The policy includ*ed an element of life cover providing for payment of a sum to his estate should he die before its maturity.

The board therefore considered that he had not answered the questions truthfully and issued a notice requiring *him to* show cause why his certificate should not be discharged or revoked.

The board rejected his arguments that the money in his bank was not savings and the policy was not an insurance or endowment policy, and revoked his certificate.

The Civil Legal Aid (General) Regulations (SI 1989 No 339) made under section 34 of the Legal Aid Act 1988 provided by regulation 78(1) that a certificate might be revoked or discharged by an area director where the assisted person had "(a) in relation to an application for a certificate ... made an *untrue statement as to his financial* resources or has failed to disclose any material fact concerning them ... (b) intentionally failed to comply with these Regulations by not furnishing ... any material information ... or (c) knowingly made an untrue statement in furnishing such information."

By regulation 78(2) "no certificate shall be revoked or discharged ... by reason of any such mis-statement or failure as is mentioned in paragraph 1(a) if the assisted person satisfies the area director that he used due care or diligence to avoid such mis-statement or failure."

Regulation 81 required notice to be served on the assisted person giving him an opportunity to show why the certificate should not be revoked, and gave him the right to an appeal to the area committee, whose decision was final.

By virtue of regulation 74, the effect of revocation was to deprive the assisted person of the protection of limited liability for costs contained in section 17 of the Act and to restore to the unassisted party his rights to costs if successful.

The effect of discharge, on the other hand, was that the assisted party ceased to be assisted in proceedings to which the certificate related from the date of discharge but retained the benefits of legal aid until that date.

In seeking judicial review, the applicant claimed that revocation of the certificate, as opposed to mere discharge, was so severe and disproportionate a penalty in the circumstances that it was a decision no rational committee could have come to, and that the decision was a nullity and should be quashed.

Mr Meredith Hardy for the applicant; Miss Beverley Lang for the area committee.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that to import the idea that the board was penalising the applicant was to introduce a qualification into the regulations which was lia*ble to lead to misunderstanding of* the board's functions.

The judge rightly described the relationship between an applicant for legal aid and the board as one requiring the utmost good faith on the applicant's part. The board was being asked to underwrite the costs of litigation *on his behalf* and it depended on him making full disclosure of all his assets.

Regulation 78(1)(a) gave the area director power to revoke or discharge a certificate both where an untrue statement had been made as to financial resources and where there had been a failure to disclose any material fact concerning them. It was to be noted that paragraph (1)(c) expressly referred to "knowingly" making an untrue statement in furnishing material information.

The fact that regulation 78(2) placed on the assisted person the *duty to satisfy the area director* that he had used all due care indicated that the powers exercisable by the area director were intended to be available to him where the material non-disclosure was due to a negligent as well as to intentional failure to make proper disclosure.

The position of the board was comparable to that of an insurance company induced to underwrite a risk when there had been a failure by the insured to disclose a matter which would influence the mind of the prudent underwriter in deciding whether and on what terms to underwrite the risk. Likewise, the *board had to decide whether to un*derwrite costly litigation by the use of public funds.

In deciding what course to take, the board was entitled also to have regard to the position of the other party to the proposed litigation, the risks of litigation for whom were significantly readjusted by the grant of legal aid to the assisted party.

The other party might well be prejudiced in being unable to obtain an enforceable order for costs or one limited to the appropriate contribution.

Where, therefore, the area director received a representation from the opposite party and it led to a finding that the applicant for legal aid had failed to make full disclosure, it was inaccurate to suggest that actions taken by the board were punitive.

No doubt the board would wish *to emphasise the importance of full* disclosure, but its action was not a penalty imposed on the particular applicant.

Bearing in mind the different consequences of revocation and discharge, it seemed to his Lordship that if an applicant failed to make full disclosure in a material respect, the course of revocation might well be more appropriate than discharge.

While the board's categorisation of the the amount which the applicant failed to disclose as a large sum might sound surprising, its knowledge and experience must be respected and its decision could not be attacked as unreasonable on ordinary public law grounds.

Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Mantell agreed.

Solicitors: Blight Broad & Skinnard, Callington; Ms Denise Atkinson.

Alleging conspiracy to defraud in the pleadings

Paragon Finance plc (formerly National Home Loans Corporation plc) v Hare and Others

Before Mr Justice Moore-Bick

[Judgment March 17]

Where a plaintiff alleged that he had been the victim of a conspiracy to defraud, it was incumbent upon a plaintiff to plead both the primary facts on which he relied and to set out clearly how they gave rise to the inference that the defendants were parties to a conspiracy. Nor could a claim in conspiracy which was inadequately particularised be repackaged as an alternative claim which assumed the existence of the same conspiracy.

Mr Justice Moore-Bick, sitting as an additional judge of the Chancery Division, so held in a reserved judgment striking out the plaintiffs' statement of claim seeking damages for deceit, conspiracy and/or knowing receipt of the proceeds of a fraudulent beach of trust as against the second and fourth defendants, Ranga & Co, solicitors, and Mr Upali Jayatilaka, a solicitor employed by, alternately a partner in the second defendant firm, on the grounds that it was insufficiently particularised, embarrassing, vexatious and an abuse of the process of the court.

Mr Christopher Parker for the plaintiffs; Mr Mark Cannon for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE MOORE-BICK said that the action arose out of a series of transactions carried out in *1990 under which the plaintiffs* made advances to various borrowers for the purchase of residential properties in London.

The plaintiffs claimed that the purchasers were introduced to the plaintiffs by Sterling Financial and Property Services Ltd, the third de*fendant, pursuant to a fraudulent* scheme under which Sterling arranged to buy each property at the market price and resell it to the purchaser at a much higher price. The higher price was then put forward as the price payable in a true arms' length transaction, thereby inducing the plaintiffs to lend more than was needed for the purchases.

Mr David Thompson, the fifth defendant, controlled Sterling. Ranga & Co acted for Sterling in both the original purchase and the subsale in respect of 99 Wellesley Court, Maida Vale. Jane Hare, the first defendant, acted for the borrowers, and thus the plaintiffs as well, in connection with the purchase and related mortgage.

In November 1996 the plaintiff issued proceedings against Ranga & Co, Sterling and D. B. Thakerar & Co, solicitors, but not against the individuals concerned, alleging that Thakerar and Ranga had conspired to defraud mortgage lenders generally.

In early 1997 the plaintiffs became aware of certain features relating to the loan relating to 99 Wellesley Court which caused the plaintiffs to issue the present proceedings.

On July 27, 1998 Mr Justice *Carnwath struck out, apparently* with some reluctance, the plaintiffs' claim in the first action on the basis that the particulars of fraud were insufficiently pleaded: see *Cannock Chase District Council v Kelly* ([1978] 1 WLR 1).

On July 31, Mr Justice Carnwath refused the plaintiffs leave to amend. An application to the Court of Appeal was also unsuccessful.

The statement of claim in the present proceedings closely followed the draft amended statement of claim rejected on July 31. Common sense required that particulars which were inadequate in the previous action would be inadequate to support the same allegation in this action unless the statement of claim in this action contained some additional particulars not found in the draft before Mr Justice Carnwath last July, or the plaintiff could establish that his decision was wrong. That decision was only of persuasive authority.

National Home Loans Corporation plc v D. B. Thakerar & Co (unreported, June 4, 1997), in which Mr Justice Chadwick observed that it would be difficult to carry out such a fraud without the cooperation of the applicant's solicitors *where the lender's standing instruc*tions expressly required the disclosure of sub-sales, could be distinguished on the basis that Ranga had not acted for the borrowers.

It was not enough to allege that Ranga knew that Hare and/or Thakerar were obliged to report any sub-sale and would not do so. In a case of this kind it was incumbent upon a plaintiff to plead both the primary facts on which he relied and to set out clearly how they gave rise to the inference that the defendants were parties to a conspiracy.

Alternatively, the plaintiffs claimed the funds they received from the advance in respect of 99 Wellesley Court as the proceeds of a breach of trust on the part of the first defendant.

That was on the basis that Ranga had acted as Sterling's solicitors on the relevant transactions knowing that Thakerar and Hare would not inform the plaintiffs of the subsales, and had therefore submitted false reports on title in order to obtain the advances.

While that claim did not depend upon a conspiracy to which Ranga was a party, it nevertheless depended upon substantially the same facts and involved an allegation of fraud. If the claim in conspiracy could not survive because it had not been adequately particularised, neither could an alternative claim which assumed the existence of the same conspiracy.

Solicitors: Hamlin Slowe; Reynolds Porter Chamberlain.

False imprisonment claim by prisoner

Toumia v Evans

Before Lord Justice Brooke and *Lord Justice Clarke*

[Judgment March 12]

It was at least arguable that a prisoner serving a life sentence for murder whose cell was not unlocked in accordance with the usual routine as a result of industrial action by prison officers had a case for false imprisonment and misfeasance in public office.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Fathi Toumia, against the dismissal by Judge Coombe in Maidstone County Court on March 30, 1998 of his appeal against the striking out *by Deputy District Judge Elsey* on July 7, 1997 of his claim against the defendant, David Evans, the secretary general of the Prison Officers' Association, as being frivolous and disclosing no reasonable cause of action and an abuse of process.

Mr Richard Hermer, assigned *by the Bar Pro Bono Unit,* for Mr Toumia: Mr Jonathan Clarke for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the plaintiff's claim arose out of an incident on March 3, 1997 at Whitemoor Prison, where he was serving a life sentence for murder. He and the other prisoners were locked in their cells in the normal way on the evening of March 2.

Staff at the prison were aggrieved by a new instruction relat*ing to* body searches of staff. At about 7.30am on March 3, members of the Whitemoor branch of the POA held a meeting at the prison in order to discuss the grievance. The governor authorised the meeting which went on for longer than was originally sanctioned.

During the course of *the morn*ing the governor issued two prisoner information notices to the effect that a number of prison officers had refused to take on unlock duties and that controlled feeding of the dinner meal was required to enable plans to be formalised to return the prison to a normal routine as possible.

The plaintiff complained that he was locked in his cell without food for the whole morning and issued proceedings for damages for losses due to illegal union action. The *plaintiff was acting* in person and did not claim for false imprisonment or misfeasance in public office.

The deputy district judge concluded that prison officers did not owe prisoners a duty of care of the kind alleged, and on appeal no longer being alleged.

However, the union's solicitor very properly drew other possibilities to the plaintiff's attention, including false imprisonment and misfeasance in public office.

As to the former, the deputy district judge held that the plaintiff was a prisoner serving his sentence and was properly confined to his cell and that his continued confinement was approved by the governor.

As to the latter, he said that he could not see that the officers could be guilty because a *memorandum* of May 6 showed that they had acted at all times under a proper order of the governor, or with his permission. He therefore directed that the actions should be struck out.

The plaintiff's appeal came before Judge Coombe. The judge did *not* communicate with the parties or tell them that he was thinking of determining the plaintiff's appeal without a hearing. On March 30 he made an order of his own motion dismissing the appeal.

Mr Hermer submitted that the judge was wrong to decide the ap*peal without giving the plaintiff the* opportunity of being present and heard, or at least without giving him the opportunity of making representations.

By Order 13, rule 1(10) of the County Court Rules (SI 1981 No 1687 L20) an appeal lay from a district *judge to a circuit judge* as of right and "shall be disposed of in chambers unless the judge otherwise directs".

It was not clear why Judge Coombe thought he had the power to dispose of the plaintiff's appeal without a hearing, and without even notifying the parties that he was minded to do so.

It was just arguable that the rules did not expressly provide that an appellant had a right to an oral hearing and that a court had an inherent right to protect its process from abuse.

*However, even if a judge was en*titled to strike out an appeal peremptorily as an abuse of the court's process, it was unquestionably his duty to ensure that both parties had notice of that intention, so that they could make such submissions as they considered appropriate before any order was made.

False Imprisonment

As long as a prisoner was detained with the authority of the governor of the relevant prison he was lawfully detained. Mr Clarke submitted that that was the case here.

Mr Hermer submitted that a prison officer who confined a prisoner in his cell in defiance of authority of the governor committed the tort of false imprisonment.

In their Lordships' judgment, it was at least arguable that a prison officer who deliberately locked a prisoner in his cell, contrary to the orders of the governor, would be guilty of false imprisonment.

The plaintiff's allegation was that after their meeting, the prison officers on his wing, acting expressly or impliedly with the authority of their trade union, refused to carry out their normal working duties and thus refused to open his cell door.

In their Lordships' judgment, the case was arguable and the allegation of false imprisonment should not be struck out on the basis that it was unarguable or almost incontestably bad.

It might fail at trial, but the plaintiff should be permitted to advance his case if he thought he could establish it at trial.

Misfeasance in public office

The essence of the tort of misfeasance in public office was the deliberate and dishonest abuse of power. *It was alleged that as a result of* a decision taken at a POA meeting, the prison officers acted in bad faith and thus dishonestly by deliberately subjecting the plaintiff to a restraint, namely being locked in his cell, for which they knew they had no authority.

There were two problems:

The first was that this newly emerging tort was concerned with misfeasance and not non-feasance. However, it would be wrong to strike out the pleading on that ground since to do so might be to stultify the development of the law.

The other problem was potentially more formidable. The particulars did not make it very clear how it was said that the POA, rather than individual officers, was liable for misfeasance in public office.

Given that Mr Clarke did not submit that if the plaintiff had an arguable case against a prison officer *he did not have an arguable case* against the POA, their Lordships assumed that he accepted that if there was an arguable case against the prison officers there was also an arguable case against the POA.

It was their Lordships' view that that was correct on the basis that it was being said that the POA encouraged the commission of the tort.

Solicitors: *Lees Lloyd Whitley.*

Power to hear petition despite earlier refusal

Ramjattan v The State

The *Judicial Committee* of the Privy Council had jurisdiction to hear petitions for leave to appeal notwithstanding the dismissal of earlier petitions in respect of the same matter but would only exercise that jurisdiction in exceptional cases where new grounds of appeal were raised of *such a character* and of sufficient merit to justify [illegible]

person from the Court of Appeal of Trinidad and Tobago which on March 10, 1997 *had dismissed her* appeal against conviction of murder and

(ii) remitting the matter to the Court of Appeal to consider new evidence in support of a defence of diminished responsibility.

The Judicial Committee had on March 10, 1977 dismissed an earli[illegible] been argued at that time: see *Bethel v The State* (unreported, December 10, 1998).

Those propositions followed from the requirements of the administration of justice and the achievement of finality in the appellate process. Further, the proposed grounds had to be of sufficient merit to justify the granting of special leave to appeal.

RACING: TRAINER HOPEFUL THAT WILLIAMSON MAY YET BE AVAILABLE TO RIDE HIS LEADING GRAND NATIONAL CONTENDER

Bailey has grounds to play waiting game

By Alan Lee, Racing Correspondent

KIM BAILEY already knows what it takes to train a Grand National winner. He knows, for instance, not to be panicked into firm plans when so much can change in the week of the race, so yesterday, after winning the principal event on a valuable Ascot card, Bailey remained coolly non-committal about riding arrangements for his main National hope, Betty's Boy.

Indeed, Bailey, mightily relieved that Supreme Charm had supplied more lucrative consolation towards the end of a generally disappointing season, refused to rule out the possibility that Norman Williamson may yet partner Betty's Boy, on whom he won the William Hill National Hunt Handicap at the Cheltenham Festival.

Only 24 hours after Williamson had been confirmed to ride General Wolfe in the National for Venetia Williams, Bailey threw confusion into the equation. "There is a long time to go yet and we'll wait until next week to see what Norman will do. A lot can still happen and I have not put anyone else on standby. Maybe I'll ride him myself," he said.

Bailey, whose other runner, the giant Druid's Brook, will be ridden by Rupert Wakley, is counting on the ground at Aintree quickening up, which would suit Betty's Boy but could lead to the late withdrawal of General Wolfe. It will not be as firm as in 1990, when Bailey's Mr Frisk won in course record time, but the forecast is in his favour. "Betty's wants good ground. He's a bit of a thinker and that sort of horse suits the National," he said.

Life has not exactly been straightforward for Williamson in recent weeks. Cheltenham success was overshadowed by the serious injuries to his highest-profile rides, Teeton Mill and Nick Dundee. He is now awaiting the outcome of a drink-driving charge, having already been warned in court that he might be sent to jail, and his first ride after a week off spent in Dubai ended yesterday in a heavy fall.

Williamson is nothing if not durable, though, and fortune smiled on him when Supreme Charm was gifted the Daily Telegraph Novices' Handicap Chase by the last-fence fall of Laredo. The horses were in the air together, neither fluent, but while Laredo came to grief, Williamson picked up Supreme Charm to coast home well clear of Kurakka. "It's his fifth time here and he has won all five," Bailey remarked. "He will go to Punchestown for a three-mile race now."

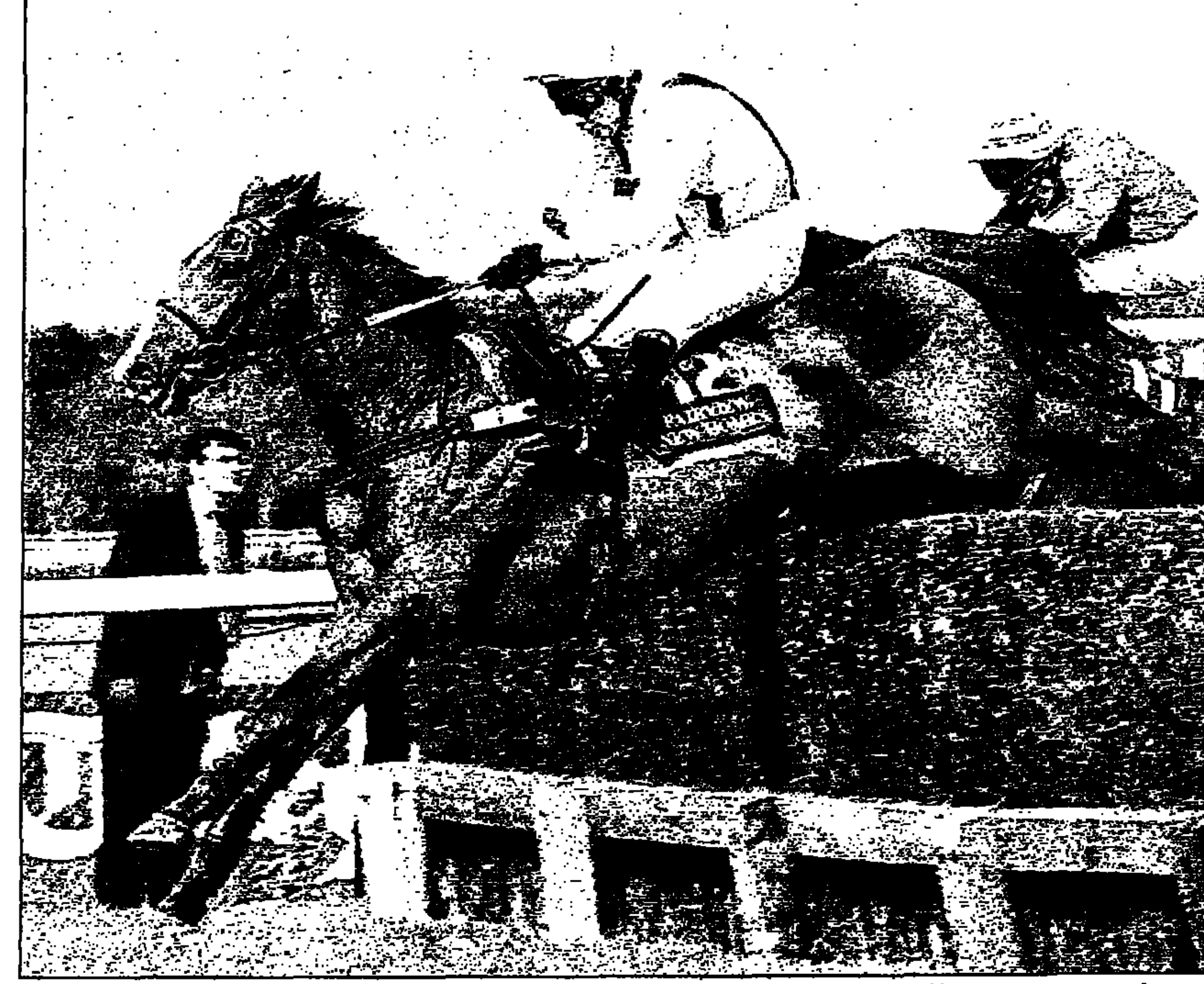
Laredo's mishap was a setback to Paul Nicholls, for whom victory would have taken him £100,000 clear of Martin Pipe in the race for the trainers' championship. Both Somerset trainers drew a blank yesterday and battle will resume over an Easter weekend with local meetings at Newton Abbot, Chepstow and Wincanton.

Richard Dunwoody also expects to be at Newton Abbot on Saturday, still needing three winners to break Peter Scudamore's National Hunt career record. Dunwoody, attracting a posse of television cameramen and photographers, was placed on all three of his rides yesterday but remains, frustrated, on 1,676.

Adrian Maguire, who won the showcase hurdle yesterday with a forceful front-running ride on Tyrolean Dream, will forego the traditional rest day of Good Friday to school his National horse, Addington Boy. Ferdy Murphy has built two Aintree-style fences at his Middleham yard to put the finishing touches to preparation for the horse generally second favourite behind Double Thriller.

Another part of the jockey jigsaw fell into place yesterday when Andrew Thornton was booked for Jenny Pitman's last National runner. Thornton will ride Nahthen Lad, winner of the Sun Alliance Novices' Chase three years ago. Victory for the pairing would ensure emotion unconfined in the winner's enclosure.

☐ The last race at Ascot yesterday was delayed 40 minutes because Kiltulla, injured in a fall in the previous race, was being attended on the course.



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Sweet Lord clears the last on his way to victory in the Fairview New Homes Novices' Chase at Ascot yesterday

Williams plots ambitious double

VENETIA WILLIAMS is considering an audacious plan for her tough staying hurdler, Lady Rebecca. She may run twice in four days next week, contesting the Grosvenor Casinos Long Distance Hurdle at Ascot on Wednesday before taking on Istabraq and a cast of supporting stars at Aintree (Alan Lee writes).

Lady Rebecca won four times at Cheltenham this season before being beaten into third place in the Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle at the Festival meeting. With neither Anzum or Le Coudray, the horses that finished in front of her, likely to reoppose, however, Miss Williams said yesterday she was "very tempted" to take in the valuable Ascot race.

"It is worth about £30,000 and there may not be much serious opposition," she said. "We could go to Aintree and run a blinder without winning, so I am thinking of running her in both races. I don't see why not — she takes her races very well."

Having drawn a blank at Cheltenham and been relatively quiet recently, Williams is anxious that a season of immense achievement should not tail off. Aintree plans, however, are conditional on the ground and she admitted to concern over a forecast of very warm and mainly dry weather for next week.

LEICESTER

ROB WRIGHT

2.10 Salsify
2.40 Scathebury
3.10 Kintavi
3.40 Top Jem
4.10 Bound For Pleasure (nap)
4.40 Penybont

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.10 COUNT DE MONEY.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.10 Ardleigh Charmer. 4.10 ZULAL (nap). 4.40 Penybont.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ....B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F - fell. P - pulled up. U - unseated rider. B - brought down. S - slipped up. R - refused. D - disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps. (B - blinkers. V - visor. H - hood. E - Eyeshield. C - course winner. D - distance winner. CD course and distance winner. BF - beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, hard. G - good. S - soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: SOFT — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.10 BESCABY MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,945: 1m 8yd) (11 runners)

101 (6) ALPINE RED (T Neill) M Bell 9-0 .... M Fenton —

2.40 BILLESDON SELLING STAKES (£2,192: 7f 9yd) (20 runners)

3.10 KINGFISHER HANDICAP (£3,008: 1m 3f 183yd) (15 runners)

313 (11) 13-315 COUNT DE MONEY 16 (D) (R Wheatley) S Bowring 4-7-12 .... A Mackay
314 (8) 34544- SHAMBLES 155 (G Margarson) G Margarson 4-7-10 .... M Henry 69
315 (3) 2/4/4/ THROWER 474J (C & S Owen) S Brookshaw 8-7-10 .... C Cogan (7) —

BETTING: 5-1 River Captain, 6-1 State Approval, 7-1 Ardleigh Charmer, Moonraking, 8-1 Count De Money, 10-1 Rear Window, Flying Fito, 12-1 others.

1998: KINTAVI 8-8-13 C Lowther (4-1 fav) T Donnelly 11 ran

FORM ANALYSIS Count De Money is of some interest off his low weight but he was made to look pedestrian on his latest all-weather run. Kintavi won this last year off a 1lb lower handicap mark, but he came into the race then on the back of two recent runs. This time his fitness has to be taken on trust. River Captain has ability but is inconsistent, while Children's Choice has been soundly beaten on his latest two starts. Petuntse won a mile seller on fast ground last year so has a new trip and different going to overcome. State Approval and Moonraking, all-weather regulars, have been winning sellers and claimers. It could be worth taking a chance with CADMAX, who showed signs of improvement on his final two starts of last term, notably when 4l second to May King Mayhem over 1m 4f at Pontefract.

SPECIALISTS

LEICESTER: Trainers: J Dunlop, 24 winners from 127 runners, 18.9%; R Hannon, 24 from 151, 15.9%; G L Moore, 4 from 29, 13.8%; R Charlton, 5 from 38, 13.2%; K Burke, 3 from 23, 13.0%. Jockeys: L Dettori, 34 winners from 119 rides, 28.6%; Pat Eddery, 27 from 124, 21.8%; M Roberts, 13 from 63, 20.6%; K Fallon, 19 from 114, 16.7%; Dane O'Neill, 14 from 108, 13.0%; J Reid, 13 from 112, 11.6%.

3.40 GREYHOUND HANDICAP (£3,815: 1m 1f 218yd) (11 runners)

401 (3) 00236- BE MY WISH 111 (F) (T Tran) S Woods 4-9-10
402 (7) 165300 SUALTACH 6 (F,S) (N Sweeney) R Hollinshead 6-9-
403 (6) 41440- FANTASY NIGHT 190 (F) (Windflowers Holdings) J D
404 (2) 33210- SWINGING THE BLUES 124J (F,S) (S B Components)
405 (9) 23004- REGAL BRIDGET 185 (M Wilkins & J Wilkins) B Mc
406 (11) 5840-6 RESPOND 37 (F) (B & C Pennick) G L Moore 4-8-1

4.10 TOTE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE)

4.40 KEYTHORPE MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES

Lingfield (7f) in October having previously shaped with promise over course and distance (behind Hawriyah) and at Newmarket. John Dunlop has his team well forward so a positive show from Tamgeed, a 430,000-guinea purchase, can be expected. She was a remote sixth in the Lingfield race contested by Penybont, however, and might need faster underfoot conditions. Why Worry Now showed her effectiveness on soft ground when chasing home Rex Is Okay in a nursery here (7f) in October and again has place prospects. Lowndes Court, a half-sister to dual-purpose winner Robbo, and Elenii, a Risk Me filly who seems sure to appreciate the going, look the pick of three newcomers.

MEETING POINTS — THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE GOING TODAY

Underfoot conditions: Standard, Hard, Firm, Good, Soft, Heavy

MUSSELBURGH — Flat, 6-race card. 1st race: 2.20. Winning favourites: 41.2%. Long distance travellers: Lord Bankes (2.50), 407 miles; Star Rage (3.20), 403 miles

LEICESTER — Flat, 6-race card. 1st race: 2.10. Winning favourites: 30.9%. Long distance travellers: Overcome (2.40), Petuntse (3.10), 212 miles

LINGFIELD — Flat, 6-race card. 1st race: 2.00. Winning favourites: 33.8%. Long distance traveller: Niminy-Piminy (3.00), 270 miles

TV: None of today's meetings

EARLY BIRD — Best value this morning: Coome Hill (Grand National) 33/1 with Coral

See racecards for detailed going

MUSSELBURGH

ROB WRIGHT

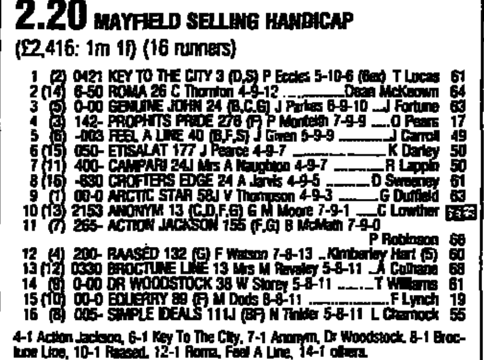
2.20 Anonym
2.50 Lord Bankes
3.20 Uniform
3.50 Sans Rivale (nb)
4.20 Minty
4.50 Diletto

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) — SIS

DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 MAYFIELD SELLING HANDICAP (£2,416: 1m 1f) (16 runners)

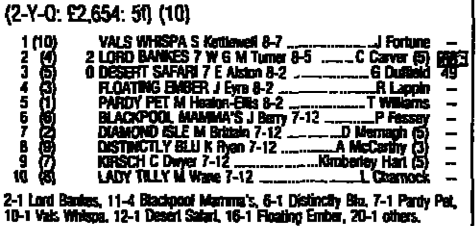
1 (2) 0421 KEY TO THE CITY 3 (D,S) P Eccles 5-10-6 (6ex) T Lucas 61
2 (14) 6-50 ROMA 26 C Thornton 4-9-12 .... Dean McKeown 64
3 (5) 0-00 GENUINE JOHN 24 (B,C,G) J Parkes 6-9-10 ... J Fortune 63
4 (3) 142- PROPHITS PRIDE 276 (F) P Monteith 7-9-9 .... O Pears 17
5 (6) -003 FEEL A LINE 40 (B,F,S) J Given 5-9-9 .... J Carroll 49



2.50 CARLYLE PLACE MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,654: 5f) (10)

8 (9) DISTINCTLY BLU K Ryan 7-12 .... A McCarthy (3) —
9 (7) KIRSCH C Dwyer 7-12 .... Kimberley Hart (5) —
10 (8) LADY TILLY M Wane 7-12 .... L Charnock —

2-1 Lord Bankes, 11-4 Blackpool Mamma's, 6-1 Distinctly Blu, 7-1 Pardy Pet, 10-1 Vals Whispa, 12-1 Desert Safari, 16-1 Floating Ember, 20-1 others.



3.20 MILL HILL HANDICAP (£3,420: 2m) (8)

1 (3) 5-15 STAR RAGE 19 (C,D,F,G) D Elsworth 9-10-0 .. J Fortune 91
2 (5) 200- NORTHERN MOTTO 76J (CD,F,S) J Goldie 6-8-10 .... K Darley 85
3 (1) 0-44 KIERANS BRIDGE 29 A Jarvis 4-8-6 .... D Sweeney 83
4 (8) 3-15 UNIFORM 24 (D,S) Miss S Hall 4-8-6 .... A McGlone 74
5 (2) 0-12 LINEA-G 24 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-5 .... A Culhane 71
6 (4) 00-0 URGENT REPLY 16 (CD,F,G) C Dwyer 6-7-13 G Duffield 90
7 (7) 16-0 BATOUTOFTHEBLUE 2 (F) W Haigh 6-7-11 L Charnock
8 (6) 523- MARISOL 33J P Monteith 6-7-10 .... D Glennon (7) 69

11-4 Linea-G, 7-2 Uniform, 11-2 Northern Motto, 6-1 Star Rage, 8-1 Urgent Reply, Marisol, 10-1 Kierans Bridge, Batoutoftheblue.

3.50 BALCARRES HANDICAP (£2,866: 5f) (12)

1 (4) 505- LORD HIGH ADMIRAL 146 (D,F,G,S) M H-Ellis 11-10-0 .... G Duffield
2 (10) /00- SUN DANCING 243 (D) P Monteith 4-9-11 .... O Pears 63
3 (12) 006- EASTERN PROPHETS 163 (D,F,S) M Dods 6-9-10 .... Dale Gibson 78
4 (1) 000- JOHAYRO 146 (CD,F,G,S) J Goldie 6-9-2 R Fowley (7) 66
5 (9) 600- SWYNFORD DREAM 183 (D,F,G) T Etherington 6-9-1 .... P Robinson 70
6 (5) 000- CLOHAMON 121 (V) S Kettlewell 4-9-1 .... J Carroll 76
7 (2) 060- SWAN AT WHALLEY 222 (CD,G,S) K Ryan 7-8-10 .... A McCarthy (3) 80
8 (8) 2400 PALACEGATE JACK 14 (B,CD,F,G,S) J Berry 8-8-9 .... K Darley 93
9 (3) 000- SANS RIVALE 139 (CD,G,S) J Eyre 4-8-6 .... C Lowther 72
10 (7) 006- PALLIUM 206 (B,CD,F,G) D Nolan 11-7-10 .... P Fessey 83
11 (6) 6510 BOWCLIFFE GRANGE 16 (D,F,G) D Chapman 7-7-10 .... L Charnock 85
12 (11) 000- BEST KEPT SECRET 265 (D,F,G,S) D Nolan 8-7-10 .... Kimberley Hart (5) 45

9-2 Palacegate Jack, 5-1 Sans Rivale, Bowcliffe Grange, 11-2 Lord High Admiral, 8-1 Swynford Dream, Swan At Whalley, 10-1 Eastern Prophets, 12-1 others.

4.20 LINKFIELD STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,570: 1m 4f) (6)

4.50 STONEYHILL MAIDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,905: 1m) (14)

12 (12) 500- WONDERFUL MAN 146 M Heaton-Ellis 8-8 ... G Duffield 41
13 (1) 600- DRAM TIME 239 T Easterby 8-8 .... L Charnock 50
14 (6) 0-60 VIRBIUS 22 J Hetherton 8-4 .... D Sweeney 35

4-1 Square Dancer, 6-1 Combined Venture, 7-1 Fallachan, Wonderful Man, 8-1 Diletto, Butterscotch, 10-1 Turtle, Mytton's Moment, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Dwyer, 3 winners from 12 runners, 25.0%; T Etherington, 6 from 26, 23.1%; J Parkes, 3 from 13, 23.1%; J Berry, 36 from 161, 22.4%; N Tinkler, 8 from 39, 20.5%; Mrs M Reveley, 15 from 84, 17.9%; T Easterby, 4 from 24, 16.7%; S C Williams, 5 from 34, 14.7%; C Thornton, 6 from 41, 14.6%; M Johnston, 10 from 87, 11.5%.

JOCKEYS: T Lucas, 4 winners from 12 rides, 33.3%; F Lynch, 3 from 10, 30.0%; P Robinson, 3 from 12, 25.0%; C Lowther, 6 from 31, 19.4%; K Darley, 26 from 141, 18.4%; A Culhane, 20 from 120, 16.7%; R Lappin, 9 from 57, 15.8%; J Carroll, 21 from 153, 13.7%; J Fortune, 17 from 138, 12.3%; L Charnock, 14 from 117, 12.0%.

LINGFIELD PARK

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 Jubilee Scholar
2.30 Gracious Plenty
3.00 Dream On Me
3.30 Space Race
4.00 Squire Corrie
4.30 Priors Moor

GOING: STANDARD — SIS

DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.00 MANNY BERNSTEIN FREEPHONE 0800 821 821 SELLING STAKES (£1,910: 1m 2f) (10 runners)

2.30 MANNY BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS TRADE DIVISION MAIDEN STAKES (£3,522: 1m 2f) (6)

3.00 MANNY BERNSTEIN EARLY PRICE TEXT SERVICE FILLIES HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,621: 7f) (11)

3.30 MANNY BERNSTEIN RAILS BOOKMAKERS CLASSIFIED STAKES (£3,505: 1m 4f) (4)

1 1011 BANBURY 14 (E,CD,G) C Dwyer 5-9-12 .... J Gotobed (7) 4
2 0-31 OPERA BUFF 42 (CD,F,S) Miss G Kelleway 8-9-10 .... P Fredericks (5) 1
3 -152 SPACE RACE 14 (CD,S) C Cyzer 5-9-10 .... T Quinn 2
4 3543 TALLULAH BELLE 12 (C,F) N Littmoden 6-9-5 T G McLaughlin 3

7-4 Tallulah Belle, 5-2 Banbury, 11-4 Space Race, 9-2 Opera Buff.

4.00 MANNY BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS CREDIT DIVISION HANDICAP (£6,098: 5f) (8)

1 d141 TEAR WHITE 14 (CD,F,G) T Mills 5-10-0 .... T Quinn 6

4.30 MANNY BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS DOUBLE RESULT HANDICAP (£2,166: 1m) (12)

12 -020 SQUARE MILE MISS 10 (CD) N Berry 6-8-2 .... N Carlisle 1

7-2 Garnock Valley, 9-2 Slip Jig, 5-1 Priors Moor, 7-1 Kalil, 8-1 Incepta, Soaking, 10-1 Kanawa, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Berry, 29 winners from 141 runners, 20.6%; R Armstrong, 15 from 78, 19.2%; B Hills, 15 from 78, 19.2%; D Chapman, 24 from 130, 18.5%; M Johnston, 49 from 287, 17.1%; S Woods, 15 from 92, 16.3%; V Soane, 8 from 50, 16.0%; C Cyzer, 32 from 223, 14.3%; G L Moore, 96 from 695, 13.8%; Miss G Kelleway, 45 from 335, 13.4%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 70 winners from 325 rides, 21.5%; P Dobbs, 8 from 39, 20.5%; K Sked, 3 from 18, 16.7%; R Cochrane, 58 from 359, 16.2%; P Fredericks, 9 from 63, 14.3%; J Gotobed, 3 from 21, 14.3%; P Fitzsimons, 3 from 22, 13.6%; G Carter, 29 from 221, 13.1%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Leicester: 2.40 Sandy Shore. Lingfield Park: 2.00 Wadi, 3.00 Enchanted Isle, Silk Wing. 4.30 Toblersong. Musselburgh: 3.50 Clohamon.

☐ Celtic Giant, ante-post favourite for the Jamesons Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse on Monday, is not a certain runner. Len Lungo, his trainer, said yesterday: "I don't see much point in travelling if overnight rain turns the going against him. He must have good to firm."

☐ There are 75 acceptors left in the Stakis Casinos Scottish Grand National at Ayr a fortnight on Saturday. Peter Beaumont is aiming the Greenalls Grand National Trial winner, Young Kenny, at the race, but Suny Bay, twice runner-up at Aintree, tops the handicap on 12st.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ascot

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.05 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Native Recruit (R Johnson, 7-2); 2, Bellseno (40-1); 3, Copper Coin ...

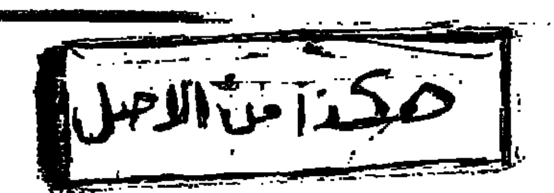
Catterick

Folkestone

Hanbury fined

BEN HANBURY, the Newmarket trainer, was fined £1,750 and jockey John Stack suspended for 12 days over the running of Quiet Millfit in the Toytop Maiden Stakes at Catterick yesterday. Quiet Millfit, who finished eleventh of the 14 runners, was banned from racing for 40 days.

Nick Vigors, the stewards' secretary, said: "The stewards considered that the horse was not ridden to obtain the best possible placing."



Women caught up in statistical maelstrom

Sullivan met his match in an angry woman

Crystal ball-gazing has always been a high-risk sport. Nearly 20 years ago a book was published very much in tune with the feminist spirit of the age, entitled *Catching Up The Men*. It put forward the thesis that standards in women's sport were improving so rapidly that it was only a matter of time before the records set by men would be matched or bettered by women.

The predictions were engagingly specific. The author, Dr K. F. Dyer, a social biologist from Adelaide, used graphs, statistics and complex formulas to put a stopwatch on the future. By 1995, he asserted, the women's record would have caught up with the men's in the 1,500 metres. By 2000 both records would stand at 3min 22.2sec. Women would match men in the 3,000 metres in 1996, Dyer said, and in the marathon in 1988. Both men and women would be covering the marathon in 2hr 05min by 2000.

It did not happen. The record for men in the 1,500 metres is 3:26:00, for women 3:50:46. The men's marathon is tantalisingly close to Dyer's prediction at 2:06:05, while the women's record stands at 2:20:47.

Dyer gazed farther into the future, saying that women would triumph in the 400 metres by 2029, the 800 metres by 2039 and the 100 metres by 2071. Those won't happen either. Dyer simply got carried away by his own political correctness and a near criminal misuse of statistics.

This week another academic has been at the same pointless game. Ellis Cashmore, Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences at Staffordshire University, suggests that the only reason women do not match men in just about all sports is because they were brainwashed by 19th-century medical myths into believing that they are the weaker sex.

> 'Theory is totally flawed'

"If we could turn the clock back 120 years and these myths did not exist, then men and women today would be competing at comparable levels," he said in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*.

Such views may be entertaining, but are little more than a load of crystal balls. It is certainly true that the Victorians had a view of women as passive and vulnerable that kept them out of sport. Pierre de Coubertin, father of the modern Olympics, was a cruel critic of sportswomen. "Women," he said, "have but one task, that of the role of crowning the victor with garlands." He forced them out of his Games for as long as possible.

BRYANT'S EYE

Naturally, after such a hampered start, the statistics of women's improvement are impressive. One man who knows how impressive is Stan Greenberg, the sports statistician. He gets furious at what he sees as statistical abuse in sport. "How many more times must we endure this so-called scientific nonsense that sportswomen will catch up and surpass men in the new millennium?" he asks. "All the data and graphs that are trotted out to 'prove' the theory are totally flawed.

"In most sports, particularly athletics, women have been competing in depth only since the 1930s. The men have been doing it for at least double that time, so their graph shows a much more gradual rate of improvement.

"Women have been able to take advantage from the beginning of modern training techniques, diet regimes, improved technology and sports science. So in an event like the pole vault, which the women have taken up only recently, they are making marvellous progress using the latest poles and techniques.

"Women do have obvious advantages in stamina-based events, particularly swimming," Greenberg said, "but even there the base data is flawed. True, a woman holds the three-way Channel record, but it is an event not attempted often enough to prove anything.

> 'They have been set false goals'

"In the marathon it is always noted that the female record was 3hr 40min in 1960. It had been that since 1926 simply because women were not allowed to run the distance until the 1970s. Not surprisingly they made tremendous advances, but any graph constructed prior to there being major participation is ludicrous." Greenberg emphasises that he does not wish to denigrate women's performances, "rather to applaud the wonderful standards they have achieved". He added: "When they fail — and they will — to meet these pseudo-scientific goals they will be decried by the same people who saddled them with these impossible targets."

There have always been sportswomen who yearn to take on men at their own game. My own favourite is Hessie Donahue. Her finest hour came in 1892. John L. Sullivan, the Irish-American boxer, was undisputed world heavyweight champion. To make money he would tour theatres offering to fight anyone. Hessie was the wife of a man who ran a boxing academy and as part of the show she would clamber into the ring in boxing gloves, skirt, stockings and bloomers to challenge the champion.

One night Sullivan, failing to pull his punch, smacked Hessie in the face. Furious, she lashed out with a right to the jaw that knocked him out for the first time in his career. Later that year Sullivan lost his title to "Gentleman Jim" Corbett when he was laid out in round 21. But a woman had got there first, so, who knows, we might yet see some 21st-century Hessie hailed as undisputed world heavyweight champion. But I wouldn't bet on it.

JOHN BRYANT

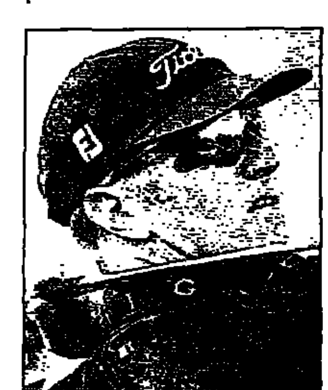
GOLF

Duval takes heavy schedule in his stride

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN ATLANTA

THERE are two ways of regarding a tournament that falls in the week before a major championship. The first is that it provides a player with the last chance to fine-tune his game, to put in the performances under the pressure exerted by his peers that cannot be repeated on the practice ground. The second is that it is a good week to rest and practise the type of shots that will be needed during that major.

The field for the BellSouth Classic, starting today at the Tournament Players Club at Sugarloaf, in the suburb of Duluth here, bears witness to both these theories. David Duval, the best golfer in the world at present and at the peak of his form after his victory in the Players Championship on Sunday, is among those competing at this course, designed by Greg Norman and opened three years ago.



Duval: peak form

Duval is now fairly and squarely in the glare of publicity that for some time shone so powerfully on Tiger Woods. His success in the past six months, including that remarkable round of 59 last January, have taken some of the pressure off Woods. Winning on Sunday may have done his career a power of good, but were he to win here, too, it is a moot point whether that would be the best preparation for the Masters because of all the pressure involved. Besides, the chances of winning three events in succession are slim.

Duval, though, has a strong mind. At least, he gives the impression of having a strong mind, and no strong-minded person would say that they would rather finish fifth one week if it meant winning the major championship the next. "I think it would be wonderful to win here," Duval said yesterday, after the pro-am, which was played in occasional light showers and a temperature perhaps 30F cooler than it had been when he won in Jacksonville on Sunday.

"Any time you win, it helps the next time, builds your confidence. Obviously the more you do it, the more often you are going to do it the same way. Put that one down in the library for the future."

Davis Love III, Fred Couples, Colin Montgomerie, Nick Faldo, Gabriel Hjerstedt, the Swede who is having such a good year in the United States, and José María Olazábal are all competing here. But Woods announced as long ago as last year that he would not be defending his title at this event, while Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke have chosen to tune up for the Masters elsewhere.

Montgomerie took his first look at the 7,259-yard course and pronounced it to be tough. "It is a very long walk," Montgomerie said. "I like the quick, sloping greens. Whoever wins here will have to play very good golf. Look at how Tiger won last year. He was 17 under par. You cannot afford mistakes. It is very difficult."

Faldo, once No 1 in the world, is now 97th. But the case of Chip Beck makes Faldo's fall quite gradual by comparison. Beck, like Duval, scored a 59, was second in the US money-list in 1988 and was a member of three Ryder Cup teams, the last in 1993.

Since then, he has gone for months on end without reaching the last two rounds of an event — 47 in a row. In 1997 and 1998, he entered 61 tournaments and made the cut in five of them. That really is a slump.

Teenager's career going downhill





By this time of year, most Britons are happy to have their sporting thoughts warmed by the promise of spring. Chemmy Alcott is different. After skiing her way to bronze and silver medals at the European Youth Olympics in Slovakia earlier this month, the teenager from Twickenham can be forgiven for wanting the icy slopes to roll on and on.

This weekend, in the French resort of Tignes, she will race one of the last big events of the season when she defends her titles in the British Land junior ski championships. Ten other nations, all with a more established skiing culture, will also compete. In the senior equivalent in January, Alcott confirmed her budding reputation — within the ski fraternity, at least — by winning the slalom and finishing second in the downhill.

"At home I can walk down the street with a British ski-team jacket on and people will come up to me to say they didn't know there was a British ski team," Alcott said. "If I asked them what their definition of our Olympic or alpine world would be, they'd say, 'Eddie The Eagle', and that irritates me no end."

Articulate and confident, there is scant trace of a gauche 16-year-old in this Surbiton High School pupil, who has been winning ski races since she was three. Except, perhaps, when she lowers her eyes to pick at her purple nail polish.

Otherwise, Alcott is vigorous and brimming with ambition. Her string of sporting and academic accomplishments show an exceptional talent. "People come up and ask if I feel like a child prodigy," she said. "I say, 'no. Mozart was a child prodigy'." Adults in high places are aware of the talent.

> 'The right support will make her an Olympic contender'

"Chemmy is on track to become a top-class skier and, with the right support, she will be a serious medal contender at the 2002 Olympics," Graham Bell, once a contender himself and now national performance director of the British Ski and Snowboard Federation, said.

Support is not as yet forthcoming from National Lottery funding. Scottish skiers, such as Emma Carrick-Anderson, are entitled to a slice of the cake, whereas English hopefuls are left to go hungry. "It's really annoying," Alcott said. "Skiing here is ranked as a class C sport or something, but we're trying to change that."

The bulk of the financial burden lies with Alcott's parents, Eve and Tim. According to them, it costs the family £25,000 a year to get their daughter around Europe. Their two sons, Alex and Rufus, were also once members of the England alpine squad. "It would be great to be sponsored by British Airways," Alcott said, "because it's the travelling that's the most expensive thing."

Winning the junior *Sunday Times* sportswoman-of-the-year award and appearing on *Blue Peter* persuaded the Army to help. "They sponsor our school ski team and they bought me a laptop," she said. "Now, wherever I am, I can e-mail my homework back. It was only a problem when I was staying in a very poor area of Slovakia and they didn't have a fax in the whole town."

Alcott's GCSE exam results prove that the arrangement has not been a hindrance. Ten of her 11 passes were grade A, five of which were A*.

Despite missing half of this school year, Alcott is now studying A levels in English, French, mathematics and business studies. "School have said I can do them in three years, but I'd rather get them out of the way," she said. "No one else in the British team stayed on at school, but I know if I got a bad injury I would only have to come back and do them later. This way I get all my educational foundation."

Alcott's love of speed means that there have been plenty of spills. Her injury list of broken bones is not for the faint-hearted. As a nine-year-old she came close to paralysis in her right arm and, two years ago, she was lifted off a French mountain with a suspected broken neck.

"That was scary," she said. "Nothing has ever frightened me enough to make me think I wouldn't want to race, but in the helicopter I did think that might be it. Injuries are common in every sport, it's just that in skiing they seem to be bigger."

Now, though, her goggles are determinedly trained on the Olympics. "The prize-giving in Slovakia was great because it was like the real thing," she said. "They had the torch and the flowers and everybody had to turn around and take their hats off. I want to give myself ten years in the sport but I don't want to put any pressure on myself. I want to have fun and I want to succeed. You can't do that if you don't enjoy what you're doing."

ALEX LIVESEY / ALLSPORT



Alcott shows the style that could help her to become a medal-winner at the 2002 Olympics

ALAN WELLER



A sponsored laptop helps to keep homework up to date

RUGBY LEAGUE

St Hilaire pursues permanent position

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WITH Iestyn Harris at full back for Leeds Rhinos, Marcus St Hilaire has had to turn himself into a specialist substitute. He underlined his reputation with the try against Bradford Bulls last Sunday that sent Leeds on their way to the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final next month.

In the rematch in the JJB Super League tonight, before another crowd of 17,000 at Odsal, St Hilaire makes only his fifth full appearance in two seasons. Harris is shifted to stand-off half because Daryl Powell sustained a calf injury in the 23-10 semi-final win. "Marcus is a great substitute, fantastic in fact, but he's ready for a full game," Graham Murray, the Leeds coach, said.

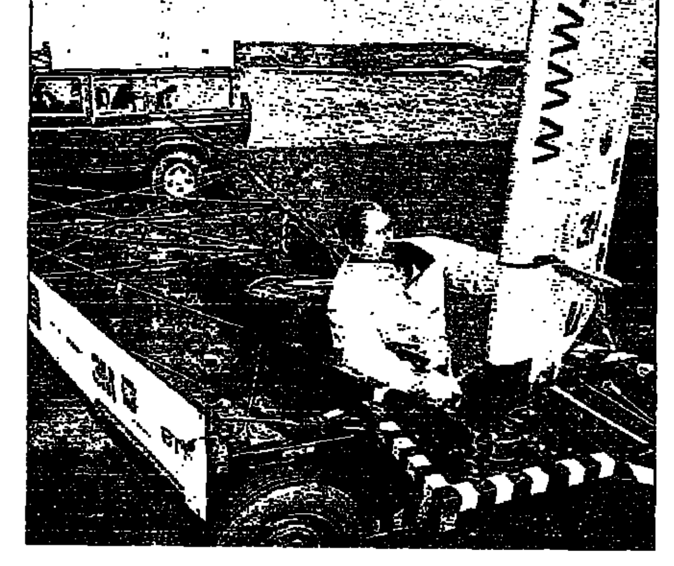
As Powell is nearing the end of a distinguished career, it is the chance, too, for St Hilaire, 23, to lay claim to the full-back position as Murray sees Harris at stand-off permanently in the long term.

Bradford dare not give Harris the licence that they allowed him in the corresponding fixture last year and again on Sunday. Nor can Leeds afford to lose a second consecutive league game. "Revenge is not a word we've spoken of," Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, said. "What we know is that winning Super League is the only option open to us."

The Bulls were overpowered by Leeds, but felt that they had not done themselves justice. Nathan McAvoy, their joint leading try-scorer, is set to replace Michael Withers on the wing and Paul Deacon and Neil Harmon are in line for recalls. Leeds introduce Marvin Golden into the centre and Martin Masella in the front row, with Richie Blackmore and Darren Fleary unfit.

Leeds will have extra recovery time before they meet London Broncos in a cup final dress rehearsal on Monday at Headingley, the scene of London's finest hour when they dramatically beat Castleford Tigers last Saturday. Queues for final tickets have formed the past two days at the Stoop Memorial Ground, where the unbeaten Broncos meet Hull Sharks tomorrow.

Shaun Edwards, the London scrum half, has shrugged off a thumb injury from the semi-finals. "Friday is a real test of our mental toughness in putting aside the emotions of last weekend," Dan Stains, the Broncos coach, said.



Goss prepares to let cat out of the bag

SAILING

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

"REALLY go for it, Andy," Pete Goss shouted from the tiny platform below the mast, 20ft out to "port" of the blue Land Rover Defender TD5. Andy Bailey, a boat builder, put his foot down and the 13ft model of the *Goss Challenger* rig, was off down the huge runway at the Royal Marines airfield at Chivenor, north Devon.

As the mini-rig made its way down the Tarmac, Goss altered settings on the sails, while in the Land Rover, Steve Grove and Tim Searle, from the mechanical and marine engineering department at Plymouth University, collated the basis of the latest "open day" yesterday arranged by Goss and his team, who are building what will be the biggest racing catamaran in history and one of the most technologically-advanced yachts attempted in Britain.

The 120ft-long Adrian Thompson-designed "cat" is coming to life in a large shed at Totnes in south Devon. But Goss and his colleagues have spent the past week as guests 130ft carbon masts that will tower above the massive multihull. "This shows how far we have come in four years," Goss said.

He is planning to set a new round-the-world non-stop record in the boat shortly after it is launched in January and then take part in The Race, the unlimited non-stop round-the-world dash being organised by Bruno Peyron, beginning in December next year.

Noble, and they are hoping to begin building the full-scale structures in six weeks' time. Despite not yet having a title sponsor, the building is on schedule as Goss already has half of his £4 million budget, with principal backing from BT, Sun Microsystems and Musto.

Goss remains confident that his boat will be competitive against the four or five other so-called "maxi-catamarans" being built for the The Race. Steve Fossett's *PlayStation*, which is approximately 15ft shorter than *Goss Challenger*, is the first to hit the water and has already set a new 24-hour

SQUASH

Potters Bar facing league expulsion

POTTERS Bar face expulsion from the National League after they failed to field a team in Nottingham for the first leg of the semi-finals (Colin McQuillan writes).

The Capital One Nottingham management had to cancel local television coverage and arrange refunds for a 200-strong sell-out crowd after Tochi Bhat, the Potters Bar team manager, told them that he could not field a team because two of his leading for ankle problems and Sue Wright, the England No 2, is confined to bed with a chest infection.

Potters Bar lost a leading sponsor in Mitsubishi Electric this season, but have still fought their way through to the semi-finals. The Squash Rackets Association is considering disciplinary action that will almost certainly give Nottingham a walkover to the second leg and lead to the expulsion of the Hertfordshire

SPORTS POLITICS

Sponsors seeking concession from IOC

By John Goodbody

SOME of the leading sponsors of the Olympic Games yesterday demanded "concessions for damage" to their individual £30 million investments because of the Salt Lake City bribery scandal.

This is the first time that the companies, which claim to have been damaged by the fallout over the "favours-for-votes" affair, have asked the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for additional facilities in compensation.

Some had already privately questioned the continuing IOC presidency of Juan Antonio Samaranch, who has repeatedly refused to take responsibility for the scandal by resigning.

Officials of the 11 biggest corporate supporters of the Games were among the 40 representatives that met in New York with Dick Pound, the IOC vice-president, and Michael Payne, the IOC marketing director.

One official said: "It was total bottom-line. The IOC was told 'we are having problems getting Olympic budgets and programmes through because you haven't given us enough ammunition to prove the scandal is fixed. So how are you going to make it up to us?'"

The sponsors are not seeking rebates for their total investment over an Olympiad of about £300 million, another representative said. Instead, they want "items of marketing value", such as increased access to advertisement space on the streets of Sydney, where the 2000 Games are being staged.

The sponsors said that they did not receive a direct response from the IOC. It was the first meeting since an IOC emergency session expelled six of its discredited members last month and set up a new framework for the selection of sites for the Games.

Samaranch has turned down an invitation to testify to the United States Senate inquiry into the scandal. Senator John McCain said: "Apparently, Mr Samaranch doesn't understand the gravity of the situation for the future of the Olympic movement."

Five Britons prepare for golden opportunity at world swimming championships

Foster looks for short course to title double

From Craig Lord in Hong Kong

IT IS rare for British swimmers to outshine their national counterparts from track and field, but that could change over the next four days. If Mark Foster and James Hickman succeed with their aim of winning a brace of titles each at the world short-course championships here, they will claim one gold medal more than did Great Britain's athletes at the world indoor championships in Japan last month.

They know it, too. Indeed it may offer a source of motivation as they take to the pool at the Hong Kong Coliseum. "The athletes got US$50,000 [about £31,000] for each win at the indoors — each win!" Foster said. "We get $15,000 here if we break a world record — but nothing for a win. We could secure the future of our lottery funding if we put on a good show at this level. Still, I reckon we're ten years behind athletics."

Nevertheless, Foster is in his element, looking forward to racing in the short-course pool and enjoying the benefit of fine food and first-class accommodation. His aims are straightforward, if easier said than done — world titles over 50 metres freestyle tomorrow and the 50 metres butterfly on Sunday, when he hopes also to regain the world record from Milos Milosevic, of Croatia.

Like Foster, Hickman relishes the challenge of racing in the 25-metre pool, half the Olympic size and suited to his ability to dolphin-kick out of his turns faster than any other swimmer in the world. At 23, five years younger than his team-mate, Hickman is unbeaten over 200 metres butterfly in a 25-metre pool since he won the world short-course title in Gothenburg in 1997.

He has a tough task ahead of him, though. His opposition in a strong field includes Denis Pankratov, of Russia, an Olympic champion from Atlanta in 1996, who is returning to form after a long break. During his absence, Hickman has become the holder of world records over both 100 and 200 metres and is ranked second in the world at these championships in the 200 metres medley.

If it can be said that one world title is harder to win than another, then Paul Palmer and Graeme Smith, Britain's two Olympic medal-winners from Atlanta, face surely the hardest tasks, for they must overcome Ian Thorpe and Grant Hackett, the teenage terrors of freestyle from Australia. Hackett, 18 and known to team-mates as The Machine, believes that he has retained the form that saw him break the longest-surviving men's world long-course record, over 200 metres, in Australia two weeks ago.

Palmer, 25, has not had a serious international race since becoming Britain's only medal-winner behind Thorpe, the youngest-ever world champion, then 15, now 16, and Hackett, over 400 metres, at the world long-course championships in January last year. Smith, 23, the European short-course champion, faces Hackett, the world short-course record-holder over 1,500 metres, in that event.

Strong medal hopes also rest with Adam Whitehead, 19 last Monday and another European champion, in the 200 metres breaststroke. Darren Mew in the 100 metres breaststroke and Adam Ruckwood in the 200 metres backstroke.

Among the women, the best chances rest with Susan Rolph, a Commonwealth and European short-course champion, in the sprint freestyle races, while Britain could start its gold medal haul today in the women's 4 x 200 metres freestyle relay, in which Karen Pickering, Claire Huddart, Karen Legg, Vicki Horner and Nicola Jackson, the reserve, are seeded No 1.

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.fina.org

TELEVISION: Eurosport, 11.30am-2pm (live)

Fina prepares for new drugs battle

FINA, the world governing body, yesterday ordered Germany to impose four-year suspensions on competitors found to have taken anabolic steroids or lose the right to host international competitions. The news could deal a blow to Berlin, which wants to host the German round of the World Cup next year (Craig Lord writes).

The hardline message came as Fina issued a set of rules designed to withstand legal challenges in its fight against drug-taking. From June, the use of diuretics, which help to flush the system of traces of other performance-enhancing substances, will be punished with a four-year suspension, instead of two.

A task force of medical and legal experts was set up to investigate doping after the large number of cases involving Chinese swimmers. Their recommendations, adopted yesterday, included the creation of the Doping Control Review Board, a body of eight experts in specialist medical fields, who will advise Fina whether cases are unsafe to take to law.

Mustapha Larfaoui, the president of Fina, said: "If it were up to me, I would just ban these cheats with no lawyers involved, but we live in a complex world."

PAUL BARKER



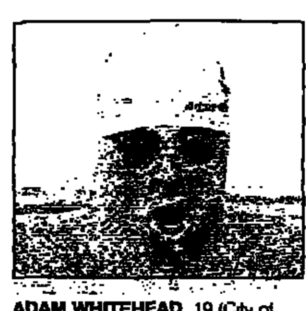
MARK FOSTER, 28 (University of Bath) H: 6ft 7in. W: 14st 10lb. Events and ranking: 50m freestyle: 1. 50m butterfly: 2.
"I came here to win both and to regain my 50 [metres] butterfly record. In this venue, if the place fills and the crowd get behind you, the adrenalin flows and speed is guaranteed. You just have to get up there and let it happen. But I don't like the one-start rule — it's too easy to overbalance when getting a fast start is so important."



JAMES HICKMAN, 23 (City of Leeds) H: 6ft. W: 11st. Events and ranking (going into race): 100m butterfly: 1. 200m butterfly 1. 200m medley. 2.
"I no longer think in terms of racing but of entertaining people. I'm a natural show-off. I get goosebumps just thinking about the crowd, about doing my best."



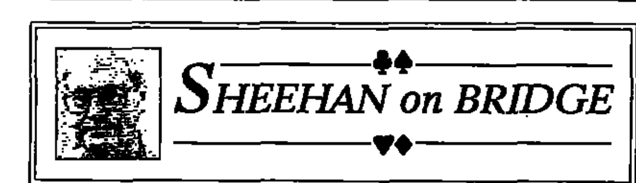
GRAEME SMITH, 23 (Stockport Metro) H: 6ft. W. 10st 8lb. Event and ranking: 1,500m freestyle: 2.
"I want to re-establish myself on the world scene. People don't fear me now as they did before the Atlanta Olympics. I was viewed as a medal contender then — and I lived up to expectations. By Sydney I want people to fear me again."



ADAM WHITEHEAD, 19 (City of Coventry) H: 5ft 11in. W: 11st 7lb. Event and ranking: 200m breaststroke: 2
"Everything went wrong after I won at the European short-course. I got really depressed. I spent five hours with a psychologist who put a different perspective on things. My stroke came back overnight."



SUSAN ROLPH, 28 (City of Newcastle) H: 5ft 6in. W: 9st 5lb. Events and ranking: 50m freestyle: 3. 100m freestyle: 3.
"At the Commonwealth Games I won the 50 metres but the swim felt bad. I was happy with the 100 because it felt like a great swim and the time proved it. That's my definition of happiness."



By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Cover up the West and South hands and try the defence as East.

Dealer East — Love all — IMPs

West	North	East	South
♠ Q9643	♠ AK852	♠ 107	♠ J
♡ A642	♡ Q	♡ 10985	♡ KJ73
◇ A10	◇ 64	◇ KQ932	◇ J875
♣ 84	♣ A10965	♣ K3	♣ QJ72

Contract: Two No-Trumps by South. Lead: eight of clubs.

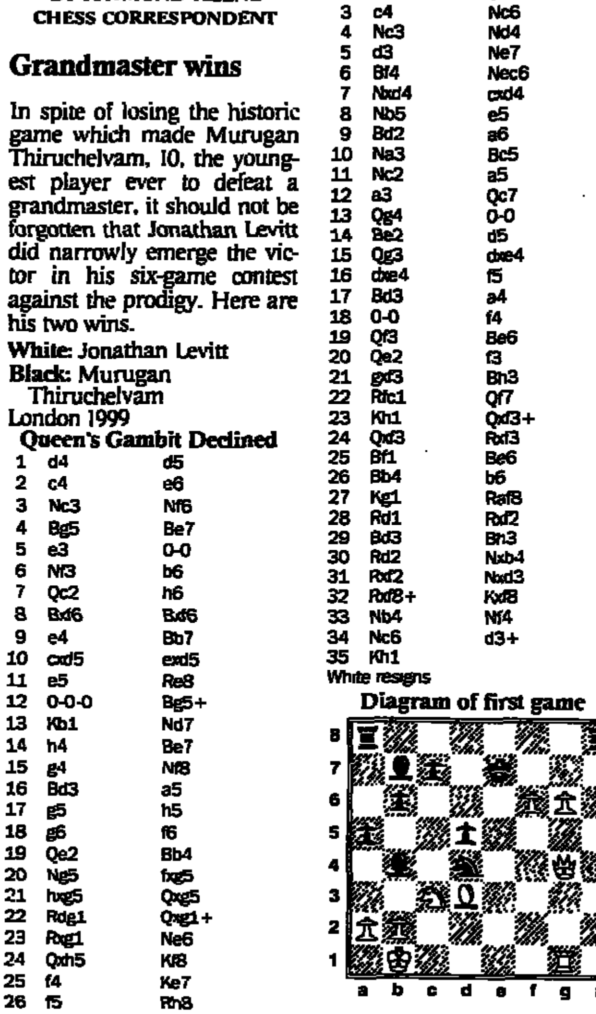
I was East, playing with Tom Townsend in the team event at the Malta Bridge Festival. He opened One Spade after two passes. I responded One No-Trump and he rebid Two Hearts. North curiously doubled. I passed and South bid Two No-Trumps, the final contract.

With his poor hearts, and with me likely to be short in spades after my pass of North's double of Two Hearts, Townsend could see there was not much future in the major suits. After the club lead, ducked to my king, I tried a heart, which allowed declarer to take two tricks in the suit even after West had correctly ducked the first round. Do you see the winning defence?

West's hearts must be poor, else he would have led one against Two No-Trumps, knowing that I had preference for hearts over spades. So it is quite likely declarer has two tricks in hearts. Thus he is threatening to make his contract via two tricks in spades, two in hearts, and four in clubs.

Attacking spades will not be good enough, as West's failure to lead the suit means he is unlikely to have as good as QJ9xx. And with West marked with no more than two diamonds (he must have at least nine cards in the majors, and presumably has not led a singleton club), East-West cannot run that suit.

That means the only chance is an attack on the declarer's communications. See the effect of winning the first club and returning a club. Declarer leads the queen of hearts. West ducks and declarer comes to hand with a third round of clubs to establish his second heart trick. But now West can make the spectacular play of the queen of spades (or more prosaically lead ace and another diamond, allowing East to start the spades). That cuts declarer off from either the fifth club or the second heart.



KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Grandmaster wins

In spite of losing the historic game which made Murugan Thiruchelvam, 10, the youngest player ever to defeat a grandmaster, it should not be forgotten that Jonathan Levitt did narrowly emerge the victor in his six-game contest against the prodigy. Here are his two wins.

White: Jonathan Levitt
Black: Murugan Thiruchelvam
London 1999

Queen's Gambit Declined

	White	Black
1	d4	d5
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Nf6
4	Bg5	Be7
5	e3	0-0
6	Nf3	b6
7	Qc2	h6
8	Bxf6	Bxf6
9	e4	Bb7
10	cxd5	exd5
11	e5	Re8
12	0-0-0	Bg5+
13	Kb1	Nd7
14	h4	Be7
15	g4	Nf8
16	Bd3	a5
17	g5	h5
18	g6	f6
19	Qe2	Bb4
20	Ng5	fxg5
21	hxg5	Qxg5
22	Rdg1	Qxg1+
23	Rxg1	Ne6
24	Qxh5	Kf8
25	f4	Ke7
26	f5	Rh8
27	Qg4	Nxd4
28	f6+	gxf6
29	exf6+	Black resigns

White: Murugan Thiruchelvam
Black: Jonathan Levitt
London 1999

Sicilian Defence

	White	Black
1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	e6
3	c4	Nc6
4	Nc3	Nd4
5	d3	Ne7
6	Bf4	Nec6
7	Nxd4	cxd4
8	Nb5	e5
9	Bd2	a6
10	Na3	Bc5
11	Nc2	a5
12	a3	Qc7
13	Qg4	0-0
14	Be2	d5
15	Qg3	dxe4
16	dxe4	f5
17	Bd3	a4
18	0-0	f4
19	Qf3	Be6
20	Qe2	f3
21	gxf3	Bh3
22	Rfc1	Qf7
23	Kh1	Qxf3+
24	Qxf3	Rxf3
25	Bf1	Be6
26	Bb4	b6
27	Kg1	Raf8
28	Rd1	Rxf2
29	Bd3	Bh3
30	Rd2	Nxb4
31	Rxf2	Nxd3
32	Rxf8+	Kxf8
33	Nb4	Nf4
34	Nc6	d3+
35	Kh1	

White resigns

Diagram of first game

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TRISKELION
a. A solar/stellar phenomenon
b. A symbolic device
c. An athletics event

FLYSCH
a. A joint of venison
b. Marine mud
c. Sadomasochism

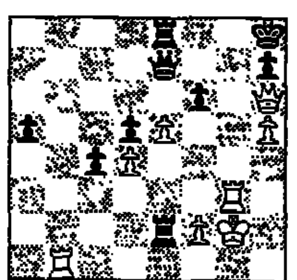
KURTOSIS
a. Shortness of breath
b. Measure of distribution
c. Political choice

PLACHUTTA THEME
a. A tune by Strauss
b. Veda
c. A chess move

Answers on page 54

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This position is from the game Muller — Klundt, Germany 1999.

In this heavy piece position the black king is badly cut off in the corner. This factor proved to be his undoing. How did White conclude?

Solution on page 54

RUGBY UNION

England duties cost Mitchell his job at Sale

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MITCHELL, England's assistant coach, parted company yesterday with Sale after a month of speculation over his ability to continue as the club's head coach. A club statement, one of mutual appreciation, said that he had resigned but, in fact, Mitchell had been at odds for too long with his squad and had spent too much time away on England duty.

The explanation for the departure of the New Zealander was the first duty to be performed by Graham Walker, Sale's new chief executive. He spoke to the playing squad who, in recent weeks, have grown progressively more disenchanted by Mitchell's management skills up to the point where they effectively agreed a vote of no confidence.

Adrian Hadley, the former Wales wing, and team manager in the last two seasons, becomes head of rugby, responsible to Walker, and within the next few days Sale will decide the shape of their coaching structure for the rest of this season. Jim Mallinder, club captain and full back, has been coaching the development team while Graham Dawe, the former England hooker, has helped with the forwards.

The players' stance was encouraged by the knowledge that Mitchell, apart from the four weeks away with England prior to Five Nations Championship matches this year — and associated training weekends — will also spend a month with the national side in Queensland this summer, followed by World Cup preparations and the tournament itself, which would effectively remove him from the club orbit for the first ten weeks of next season.

His England arrangements are not affected by the rupture with Sale, though it does indicate the problems of being a full-time club employee and a part-time national coach. The same situation, albeit with England's A team, was true of Richard Hill before he was sacked by Gloucester.

Clive Woodward, the England coach, said: "I can confirm that John Mitchell informed me of his decision to resign ... This does not affect his position as assistant coach of England. I look forward to continuing what has been a productive relationship."

Mitchell, 35, who was in the second year of a five-year contract with Sale, believed to be worth around £90,000 a year, joined the club in 1996 as player-coach. He came with the reputation of a forceful No 8 and captain of Waikato who toured with the All Blacks but never appeared in an international. His terms of reference changed almost upon arrival since he was due to coach the forwards under the direction of Paul Turner, who then left for Bedford.

It is significant that Sale's greatest achievements under


Mitchell: club role ended

Mitchell came in the cup rather than the league. They were beaten finalists in 1997 and semi-finalists last season, confirming a reputation for shocking more fancied opponents rather than one of consistency. But at their best they played exciting, adventurous rugby.

This season, Sale stand eleventh in the first division, hovering just above the relegation play-off zone, a situation of concern for the club directors who felt they needed a coach permanently available to them.

In his England persona, Mitchell may draw comfort from the remarks of Graham Henry, his countryman who coaches Wales and now seeks to build on wins over France and Italy by beating England on April 11 at Wembley. "England are the best team on this side of the world by a considerable margin," Henry said in Cardiff yesterday. "We are an average side who have won a couple on the trot and have been stuffed by Ireland and Scotland.

"England are very well organised with a very experienced pack of forwards, perhaps the best pack in the world.. Some people believe they are boring but they play the game correctly, they take field positions, they kick penalties. They would like to score a few more tries but they are a good rugby side. If you want me to criticicise the English, you are wasting your time."

France, meanwhile, have made four changes in their squad to play Scotland on April 10 in Paris. Christian Labit and Yann Delaigue, flanker and fly half respectively for Toulouse, make their first appearances of this season in the championship, and are joined by two forwards relegated to the A side last month, Thierry Cleda and Marc Dal Maso.

Evans will take wing no more

David Hands pays tribute to a player who encapsulated the true spirit of Welsh rugby


DAVID ROGERS / ALLSPORT

Evans, who was a shining light in Welsh rugby's darkest days, in full flight for his country against Scotland

When we remember Ieuan Evans, we will think not of the bludgeoning power so typical of the modern game, but of the dancer, a player so light on his feet that he could make most opponents seem like plodding policemen. We will also recall the indomitable spirit that made light of so many injuries and gave heart to a nation which, earlier this decade, seemed wrapped in the depression of defeat.

Evans, the most-capped Wales player with 72 appearances, confirmed his retirement yesterday, two months ahead of schedule. He had hoped to leave the game he has graced for 16 years trailing clouds of glory but a stress fracture of the foot has drastically inhibited the second year of his contract with Bath which has now been terminated by mutual agreement.

"It will take some time to get used to the fact that I have retired," Evans, 35, said. "I'll take a few months to look at other avenues but, for the first time, my future has nothing to do with rugby." He might have known that injury would have the final say. Had it not been for a succession of dislocated shoulders, a broken leg and an ankle dislocated so badly that, at the time, his career seemed over, Evans would surely have ended much nearer a century of international appearances.

His last was against Italy in January last year; his first, against France, was 11 years earlier and in between he attracted every honour the game had to offer — the captaincy, on 28 occasions, of his country, appearances in three World Cups, three British Isles tours, league and cup honours with Llanelli and a European Cup winner's medal with Bath just over a year ago. But Evans was more than just an achiever: he was at once a symbol of hope for a rugby-mad nation and above all an upholder of that nation's traditions. As Graham Henry has been reminding the Welsh public this season, the glory of the red jerseys is to run with the ball; the lethal dart, the dramatic sidestep, the clever player who sees the game as a form of self-expression.

Evans had these gifts in abundance. He was blessed with natural pace but he could sidestep, he could swerve and he could defend — indeed history records, with some sadness, just how much defending was done by some of the Wales teams in which Evans played. That he should have scored 33 tries for his country at a time when the national game was at so low an ebb is testament to his quality. Many will recall him stepping with such panache past four Scotland defenders who seemed turned to stone at the old Arms Park; roaring onto a grub-kick by Emyr Lewis as Rory Underwood seemed lost in thought, to score the try that beat England; swerving his way through a handful of opponents to inspire a remarkable comeback by the Lions against the New Zealand Maoris at Wellington in 1993.

There was an innate Welshness in the way he played the game but he also developed a captivating manner off the field. There were few triumphs of which to boast during Evans's tenure as captain but he drew listeners to his side with a modesty and a gift for diplomacy which now, in a professional era, seem even more admirable than they were then.

And there was the walk. When Evans scored a try, he would walk back to halfway with a little bounce, a strut which seemed half embarrassment, half pride. Above all it seemed to sum up the pleasure he took from playing, be it in the red jerseys of Llanelli, Wales and the Lions, or the blue, black and white of Bath. Indeed, he painted so many colours that rugby's canvas will seem more palid without him.

THE EVANS YEARS

1964: Born March 21 in Pontarddulais
1984: Joined Llanelli from Carmarthen Quins
1985: Scored six tries for Wales B in their 80-9 victory over Spain
1987: Made senior Wales debut against France in Five Nations Championship. Played throughout World Cup campaign, scoring four tries during 40-9 rout of Canada. Helped his country to third overall.
1989: Selected for the British Isles tour of Australia, playing in all three internationals as Lions clinched 2-1 series victory, scoring decisive try in third game
1993: Scored famous winning try against England in Cardiff in a season when Llanelli won league and cup double. Went on to be ever-present in Lions' 2-1 series defeat against New Zealand
1994: Enjoyed his most successful season as national captain, leading Wales to the Five Nations Championship. Led country for record nineteenth time against Portugal
1997: Extended Wales try record to 33. Joined Bath from Llanelli for £75,000
1998: Helped Bath to win Heineken Cup against Brive in Bordeaux. Returned to Wales action, winning his 72nd — and last — cap against Italy

Wales underline youthful promise

BY DAVID HANDS

THE old order changes in youth rugby, too. France and Argentina, who used to dominate the FIRA youth tournament, have been elbowed aside for the semi-finals in Bridgend tonight of what is now the IRB/FIRA world youth tournament. Wales and Ireland uphold northern-hemisphere dignity against South Africa and New Zealand.

This has been an exceptional season at youth and under-21 level for Wales who reached the last four the hard way — by beating an under-prepared England and then disposing of Argentina, the 1997 winners who were placed third in the world last season. "We have played some tremendous rugby but there is more to come," John Bevan, the Wales coach, said. "We must take all the chances we create."

If they are to reach the final on Sunday, however, they must dispose of a South Africa team built around a very physical pack. The greater task, however, faces Ireland, who won the world tournament last year in France. They meet a New Zealand team that, some seasoned observers have claimed, would not look amiss in Welsh premier-league rugby.

The New Zealanders have scored 137 points in two games, including 21 tries. Ireland, traditionally strong in junior representative rugby, cruised past Georgia in defence of their title, but then had Jeremy Staunton, their fly half, to thank for 14 points in the 24-15 win over Italy.

☐ Craig Quinnell will make a rare appearance at flanker for Richmond in their Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final against Newcastle on Saturday after a knee injury to the England A flanker, Adam Vander. Quinnell rested a dead leg as Richmond trained yesterday, but both he and John Kingston, the Richmond manager, have no doubts about his fitness.

Kingston said: "Craig has played only a handful of matches for us at flanker but he started his Test career there for Wales. We have not needed to exploit his versatility by playing him in the back row until now. We have used him as a lock in around 50 of his matches in the three years he has been with us." Andy Sheridan, 19, will take over at lock.

A nation acclaims fitting stage

David Hands finds the Millennium Stadium rising to the challenge

There is a constant hum in the centre of Cardiff that acts as a background to the noise of the traffic and the hustle and bustle of shoppers. It is the sound emanating from the Millennium Stadium rising from the ashes of the old Arms Park in the same way that those given charge of rugby in Wales hope that the national sport is rising from the dust of defeat.

It is an impressive sight — and site. The entrails of the new 72,500-seat stadium may still be hanging out, but every day sees progress. Later this month, the workforce will be nearly doubled, to 1,100 working around the clock for the next three months, to ensure that by June 26, there is a stadium capable of hosting an international occasion and, three months later, the 1999 World Cup.

Those in charge of the £120 million project speak with Messianic fervour of their conviction that all will be ready in time. Glanmor Griffiths, the chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union, who welcomed to the stadium yesterday a third big sponsorship, worth £2 million, from Bass Brewers, says that the dates for the opening game, against South Africa in June, against Canada and France in August and the opening match of the World Cup against Argentina in October are not areas of debate — they are set in stone.

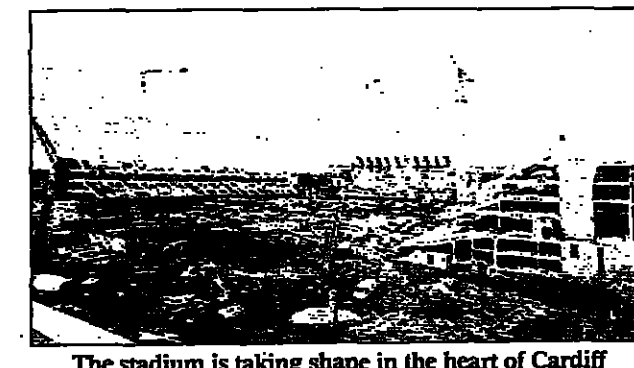
The stone, you might say, or rather the pre-cast steel of the new stadium. Amid much talk of primary and tertiary trusses, of concrete stepping and seats by the thousand — even our old friends, corporate hospitality boxes (125 of them) — Todd Staley talks of the finest stadium in Europe, which will remain so for a decade. Staley, the senior project manager, had charge of the Olympic Stadium in Atlanta before the 1996 Games, where doubt was cast on the ability to complete in time, and he delivered.

"This is a tough site, because of the city centre, because of the time-scale, the proximity of the river, the amount of demolition," Staley said, "but the commitment is 110 per cent. I don't know any other stadium in the world that will have the sight lines, the retractable roof and the flexibility of this one. You'll have a feeling of closeness to the game, you'll be on top of the game."

Graham Henry, the Wales coach, whose players will have a view directly on to the playing area as they enter the ground on the east side, believes it will be the best rugby stadium in the world: "I find it mind-boggling what the people who made the decision to build it have done, in the heart of the city," he said. "It showed great intestinal fortitude."

The tight area has forced John Laing, the contractor, to work up rather than out and spectators in the ringside seats at ground level will be no more than six metres from the playing surface. That, too, is a design that Staley equates with the Giants Stadium in New Jersey, based on a patchwork of grass "pallets" that can be taken up and moved around at will and which, once laid, permit a match to be played a week later.

If the problems of Welsh rugby could be so mobile, how wonderful that would be. The Welsh Rugby Union committee meets tonight, insisting that fines levied on Cardiff and Swansea, the rebel clubs, must be paid; union representatives meet the two clubs next week in an attempt to find a face-saving formula that can build on the European agreement reached in Paris last weekend.


The stadium is taking shape in the heart of Cardiff

Brewer's backing of SRU dries up

BY A CORRESPONDENT

TENNENT'S, the Scottish brewer, yesterday announced that it is to end its sponsorship of rugby union. The company is in the first year of a second three-year contract with the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU), sponsoring the leading ten league and cup competitions, but the announcement from the Glasgow headquarters of Tennent's confirmed that it is to withdraw two years early.

Callum MacKay, the company's head of sponsorship, said: "After a lengthy review period, Tennent Caledonian Breweries are bringing to an end their sponsorship of Scottish domestic rugby at the end of this season.

"Last September we extended our contract with the SRU by another three years. However, we are now exercising a review option built into the contract. It is our view that the continuing uncertainty surrounding the game is not in the best interests of our brands. The audience had become smaller."

The move is a severe setback for the SRU as it attempts to placate clubs after revealing last week that the country's top 60 players, most of whom are contracted to the union only until October, will not return to club rugby this season.

However, Bill Watson, the SRU chief executive, said: "Tennent's have to meet their own market needs and it would appear that this is not the direction they want to take in the future. I am adamant that new sponsorship will be secured at a time when the number of adults playing the game is growing.

"The SRU have honoured their contractual obligations with Tennent's, but, in light of this announcement, it should be stated that the process of securing alternative sponsorship is already under way."

Tennent's had injected £3 million into Scottish rugby in the past four years, but the money will dry up on April 24, which is Tennent's Velvet Cup finals day at Murrayfield.

Stuart Henderson, the Melrose secretary, said: "This is another indictment of the whole Scottish scene and sums up the general feeling. The SRU are just not interested in the clubs. By taking the best players out of the league, they have devalued it and the sponsors were bound to react."

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester Jets 101 Derby Storm 95

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 77 Detroit 93 Charlotte 99 Boston 109 Cleveland 91 Toronto 101 Orlando 100 New Jersey 98 Minnesota 98 Dallas 78 New York 94 Indiana 93 Chicago 91 Philadelphia 81 Milwaukee 107 Washington 105 San Antonio 95 Seattle 87 Vancouver 101 Denver 87 Golden State 93 Portland 90 Los Angeles Clippers 95 Houston 104 Sacramento 104 Utah 101 (OT)

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	22	9	710	—
Miami	19	9	679	1½
New York	17	14	548	5
Philadelphia	15	14	.517	6
Washington	12	17	414	9
Boston	10	18	357	10½
New Jersey	5	24	172	16
Central division				
Indiana	20	10	667	—
Atlanta	19	12	613	1½
Detroit	18	12	600	2
Milwaukee	17	12	586	2½
Toronto	15	14	517	4½
Cleveland	14	14	500	5
Charlotte	12	16	429	7
Chicago	9	21	300	11

Western Conference

Midwest division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	21	8	724	—
Houston	22	9	710	—
San Antonio	20	10	667	1½
Minnesota	17	13	567	4½
Dallas	10	22	313	12½
Denver	8	23	258	14
Vancouver	6	24	200	15½
Pacific division				
Portland	23	6	793	—
LA Lakers	21	11	656	3½
Seattle	15	14	517	8
Phoenix	14	16	467	9½
Sacramento	14	17	452	10
Golden State	13	16	448	10
LA Clippers	3	26	103	20

CRICKET

Third Test match West Indies v Australia

KENSINGTON OVAL (final day of five): West Indies beat Australia by one wicket

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 490 (S R Waugh 199, R T Ponting 104, J L Langer 51). Second Innings 146 (C A Walsh 5 for 39)

WEST INDIES: First Innings 329 (S L Campbell 105, R D Jacobs 68)

Second Innings

S L Campbell lbw b McGrath	33
A F G Griffith lbw b Gillespie	35
D R E Joseph lbw b MacGill	1
P T Collins lbw b McGrath	0
*B C Lara not out	153
C L Hooper c Healy b Gillespie	6
J C Adams b McGrath	38
†R D Jacobs lbw b McGrath	5
N O Perry lbw b McGrath	0
C E L Ambrose c Elliott b Gillespie	12
C A Walsh not out	0
Extras (b 8, lb 13, w 1, nb 5)	28
Total (9 wkts)	311

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-77, 2-77, 3-78, 4-91, 5-105, 6-238, 7-248, 8-248, 9-302.

BOWLING: McGrath 44-13-92-5, Gillespie 26.1-8-62-3, Warne 24-4-69-0, MacGill 21.6-48-1, S R Waugh 5-0-19-0

Umpires: E A Nicholls (West Indies) and D L Orchard (South Africa)

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 1 Los Angeles 2 (OT), Washington 2 Nashville 3; Philadelphia 3 Carolina 3; Pittsburgh 4 Ottawa 6, Edmonton 4 Phoenix 7, Colorado 3 Calgary 3

RUGBY UNION

FRANCE SQUAD (v Scotland, April 10). Backs: Y Delaigue (Toulouse), P Carbonneau (Brive), T Castaignède (Castres), F Comba (Stade Français), C Dominici (Stade Français), X Garbajosa (Toulouse), P Giordani (Dax), C Laussucq (Stade Français), T Lombard (Stade Français), E Ntamack (Toulouse). Forwards: O Brouzet (Bègles-Bordeaux), C Califano (Toulouse), T Cleda (Pau), R Castel (Béziers), M Dalmaso (Colomiers), R Ibañez (Perpignan, captain), C Juillet (Stade Français), T Lièvremont (Perpignan), C Labit (Toulouse), S Marconnet (Stade Français), F Pelous (Toulouse), F Tournaire (Toulouse)

SNOOKER

TELFORD: World championship: Seventh qualifying round (England unless stated): J Birch bt J Grech (Malta) 10-2; M Fu (HK) bt J Ferguson 10-1; R Milkins bt K Broughton 10-6, M Judge (Ire) bt A Knowles 10-4; M Geudens (Neth) bt T Jones 10-6, P Wykes bt M Holt 10-8; E Henderson (Scot) bt M Couch 10-6; P Lines bt T Shaw 10-8, J Lardner (Scot) bt N Foulds 10-5; G Ponting bt D Row 10-5; D Finbow bt J Prince (N Ire) 10-5; D Henry (Scot) bt P McPhillips (Scot) 10-6, J Johnson bt R Hull (Fin) 10-7, I McCulloch bt B Pinches 10-9

SQUASH

SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Semi-finals, first leg: UNW Northumberland 2 UK Packaging 3 (Northumberland names first, C Walker lost to T Garner 14-17, 15-14, 9-15, 8-15; T Hands bt J Wellings 15-8, 15-5, 13-15, 15-8, J Dale lost to S Cowie 15-2, 12-15, 15-12, 12-15, 11-15, G Thwaite bt L Jemmett 15-14, 17-14, 16-17, 8-15, 15-7; J Martin lost to L Charman 9-2, 7-9, 6-9, 9-1, 6-9); Capital One Nottingham 5 Potters Bar 0 (conceded match).

NATIONAL SUPER LEAGUE: Ellis Stockbrokers Lingfield 3 Halifax Insurance 0 (Ellis Stockbrokers Lingfield names first; P Nicol bt M Bennett 9-2, 9-2, 9-1, P Johnson bt L Beachill 9-5, 8-10, 2-9, 9-4, 9-6, T Garner bt D Campion 9-4, 9-6, 9-1) Dunraven Windows Maesteg 3 Le Sport Colwyn Bay 0 (Dunraven Windows Maesteg names first, A Gough bt N Taylor 9-4, 8-10, 9-6, 9-6, D Evans bt P Whitlock 9-4, 5-9, 9-6, 7-9, 10-8; G Tippings bt M Thomas 9-3, 9-2, 9-1). Leading positions: 1, Ellis Stockbrokers Lingfield 55pts, 2, Dunraven Windows Maesteg 52; 3, Halifax Insurance 35, 4, Le Sport Colwyn Bay 21

VIENNA: European junior championships: Boys: Semi-finals: G Gaultier (Fr) bt N Matthew (Yorkshire) 4-9, 9-7, 6-9, 9-5, 9-2; A Grant (Kent) bt B Garner (Surrey) 9-4, 9-4, 9-4. Final: Grant bt Gaultier 9-5, 9-0, 9-0. Girls: Semi-finals: T Hannes (Bel) bt O Hauser (Switz) 9-5, 5-9, 10-9, 9-5; V Lankester (Suffolk) bt N Clark (Sussex) 9-6, 9-2, 9-3. Final: Lankester bt Hannes 9-1, 9-3, 9-6.

MEN'S WORLD TOP 10 PSA RANKINGS: 1, P Nicol (Scot), 2, J Power (Can) 3, A Barada (Egypt), 4, P Johnson (Eng), 5, M Heath (Scot); 6, S Parke (Eng), 7, R Eyles (Aus), 8, A Gough (Wales); 9, D Jenson (Aus); 10, A Hill (Aus).

SWIMMING

EAST MEADOW, New York: United States championships: Men: 200m freestyle: 1, J Davis 1min 49.45sec, 2, U Taner 1:49.48; 3, B Szabados 1:49.68. 400m individual medley: 1, T Wilkens 4:17.12, 2, E Vendt 4:21.77; 3, T Sethsolhorn 4:24.57. Women: 200m freestyle: 1, L Benko 1:59.72, 2, S Arsenault 2:01.37, 3, K Black 2:02.58. 400m individual medley: 1, K Sanders 4:43.37, 2, K Yevak 4:46.68, 3, L Davis 4:50.77.

TENNIS

SUNDERLAND: Girobank Tour: Men: Second round: N Gould (Avon) bt J Cairns (S Wales) 6-0, 6-2, J Fox (Lincs) bt M Trudgeon (Cornwall) 7-5, 6-2; J Smith (Northants) bt R Matheson (W Scotland) 7-6, 1-0 ret. D Crawley (Norfolk) bt V Snyman (SA) 6-2, 6-3. Quarter-finals: Gould bt S Harston (Essex) 6-4, 6-4; P Hand (Berks) bt J Murray (Yorks) 6-3, 6-3. Smith bt Fox 6-3, 6-2; R Hanger (Dorset) bt Crawley 6-2, 6-0. Semi-finals: Gould bt Hand 6-0, 6-3, Hanger bt J Smith 6-3, 6-3. Women: Quarter-finals: L Perkins (Durham and Cleveland) bt C Udola (Nigeria) 6-3, 6-0; J Osman (Sussex) bt N Trinder (Northumberland) 6-2, 6-3, Y Doyle (Ire) bt A Blow (Leics) 6-0, 6-1; M Berry (Suffolk) bt G Atherton (Lancs) 6-3, 6-3. Semi-finals: Osman bt Perkins 6-3, 6-3; Doyle bt Berry 6-3, 6-0.

SOUTH CAROLINA: WTA Family Circle Cup: First round: S Farina (It) bt K Po (US) 6-2, 7-5; E Likhovtseva (Russ) bt T Snyder (US) 6-0, 6-3, O Barabanschikova (Bela) bt K Brandi (US) 7-5, 7-5. Second round: N Dechy (Fr) bt A Mauresmo (Fr) 6-4, 0-6, 6-4; A Coetzer (SA) bt E Makarova (Russ) 6-3, 7-5; N Zvereva (Bela) bt P Suarez (Arg) 6-3, 6-1; J Novotna (Cz) bt C Cristea (Rom) 6-4, 6-4, G Leon Garcia (Sp) bt A Sanchez-Vicario (Sp) 6-4, 6-3; B Schett (Austria) bt B Rippner (US) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; A Kournikova (Russ) bt M Sánchez Lorenzo (Sp) 2-6, 6-3, 6-1

ATP TOUR RANKINGS: 1, P Sampras (US) 3,525pts, 2, C Moyá (Sp) 3,516; 3, Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 3,382; 4, R Krajicek (Neth) 3,119, 5, P Rafter (Aus) 3,115, 6, A Corretja (Sp) 3,101, 7, T Henman (GB) 2,633; 8, T Martin (US) 2,279, 9, M Philippoussis (Aus) 2,264, 10, K Kucera (Slovakia) 2,253, 11, G Rusedski (GB) 2,126; 12, A Agassi (US) 2,071; 13, M Rios (Chile) 2,035; 14, G Ivanisevic (Cro) 1,929, 15, T Enqvist (Swe) 1,898, 16, A Costa (Sp) 1,800; 17, T Johansson (Swe) 1,614, 18, G Kuerten (Br) 1,608; 19, T Haas (Ger) 1,600; 20, F Mantilla (Sp) 1,589; 21, C Pioline (Fr) 1,520; 22, F Clavet (Sp) 1,450, 23, M Safin (Russ) 1,254, 24, T Muster (Austria) 1,224; 25, J Golmard (Fr) 1,210; 26, N Kiefer (Ger) 1,198; 27, M Rosset (Switz) 1,181, 28, A Berasategui 1,167, 29, B Black (Zim) 1,164, 30, W Ferreira (SA) 1,161.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League

Second division

Gillingham v Reading (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: President's Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Stalybridge (1) v Droylsden (1). Challenge Cup: Fourth-round replay: Farsley Celtic v Hucknall Town.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Second division: Metropolitan Police v Leighton Town.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Haringey v London Colney; Hillingdon Borough v Somersett Ambury; Ruislip Manor v Arlesey Town, Toddington v Barkingside

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bandon v Cradley Town

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Bradford v Leeds (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Edinburgh Rocks v Birmingham Bullets (8.0)

HOCKEY: BUSA Games (at Loughborough University): Men: Wales v Northern Ireland (10.30); England v Scotland (2.30). Women: Wales v Northern Ireland (9.0). England v Scotland (12.30).

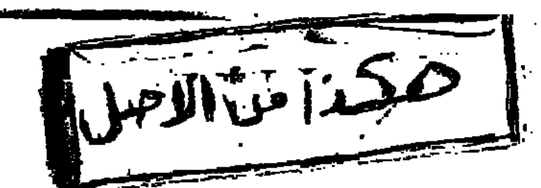
SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Conditions Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	70	80	Good	Hard	Spring	Sun	4	28/3
Austria								
Kitzbühel	10	156	Good	Slushy	Spring	Sun	5	23/3
Obergurgl	40	270	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	2	28/3
St Anton	70	480	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	6	24/3
Canada								
Lake Louise	146	159	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-6	27/3
France								
Alpe d'Huez	153	350	Good	Icy	Varied	Sun	8	28/3
Argentière	80	300	Good	Slushy	Varied	Fine	5	27/3
La Clusaz	30	260	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Sun	1	28/3
La Plagne	155	235	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	6	28/3
La Tania	101	258	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	10	27/3
Les Arcs	118	330	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	12	28/3
Megève	80	250	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	7	27/3
Tignes	141	280	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	7	27/3
Val d'Isère	120	240	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	8	28/3
Valmorel	95	210	Good	Open	Spring	Sun	5	27/3
Italy								
Cervinia	120	230	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	2	27/3
Cortina	25	100	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	5	27/3
Livigno	60	200	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	15	28/3
M di Campiglio	50	100	Fair	Open	Heavy	Sun	18	28/3
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	45	290	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	5	28/3
Davos	130	295	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	6	22/3
Klosters	80	290	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	6	22/3
Murren	80	350	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	8	27/3
St Moritz	50	100	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Sun	15	27/3
Verbier	60	190	Good	Slushy	Spring	Fine	12	28/3
Villars	40	240	Good	Slushy	Varied	Sun	5	27/3
Wengen	50	160	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	8	27/3
Zermatt	70	260	Good	Open	Heavy	Fine	2	27/3
United States								
Aspen	125	145	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	15	27/3
Deer Valley	205	235	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	4	31/3

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes. U = upper slopes


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THE TIMES
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A one off entry fee of £175 plus VAT.
At least one in three chance that the qualifiers from your company golf day could go forward to represent your company in one of the fourteen Regional Finals held in October.
3 Qualify for the Regional Finals
The winners of the Regional Finals will qualify to play in the National Final in La Manga in November, to be shown on Sky Sports.
4 Televised National Final
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England call on Hussain in hour of need

By Richard Hobson

ENGLAND called up Nasser Hussain to their World Cup squad last night as the replacement for Michael Atherton, who was forced to withdraw on Tuesday because of his long-standing back problem. The Essex captain will join the squad in Sharjah next Monday ahead of the Coca-Cola Cup tournament that forms the next stage of the warm-up schedule.

Hussain felt aggrieved at his initial omission from the 15-man squad after a reasonable overall record in the recent one-day series in Australia. However, a rash shot in the first leg of the three-match final, when he was out for 58 and heralded a late-order collapse and eventual defeat, was believed to have counted against him.

David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said that Hussain was chosen for the one-day leg of the Ashes tour as replacement for the injured Graham Thorpe and intended to build the middle order for the World Cup — which begins on May 14, when England face Sri Lanka — around Graeme Hick, Thorpe, who has recovered from a back injury, and Neil Fairbrother.

The selectors decided yesterday that Vince Wells and Andrew Flintoff already provided cover for the opening berths and opted for Hussain's experience ahead of Mark Ramprakash. Hussain will also improve the fielding, an area in which England are some way behind South Africa and Australia, the favourites.

Graveney, speaking from Lahore, where England are preparing before Sharjah, said: "Atherton's selection was based on the need to have our most experienced Test players if the conditions are such that there would be low-scoring games.

"Nasser may not be an opener, but he would be one of the first names on the list in a Test-match scenario, which is further evidence of his technical prowess. When I called to tell him he was not in the original squad, he stated his case very forcibly, which is what I would expect."

Hussain: recall

CRICKET: CAPTAIN'S EXTRAORDINARY COMEBACK REIGNITES PASSION FOR GAME IN CARIBBEAN

Islands united by Lara's genius

From Pat Gibson in Barbados

IT IS as true today as it was when Frank Worrell said it almost 40 years ago. Only cricket unites the West Indies, which is why Brian Lara has now stepped beyond the pages of the game's record books and into the annals of Caribbean history.

What he has done in the past two weeks is far more than win two Test matches against Australia at Sabina Park and the Kensington Oval with two of the greatest innings the game has seen.

As Worrell also said, cricket in the West Indies is more than just a game, it is a way of life — and millions of people throughout these islands feared that it was gone forever when they were going through the darkest days they have known.

Not only that but they held Lara responsible. He was vilified for leading the pay revolt that undermined the recent tour of South Africa before they suffered their first 5-0 whitewash in 75 years of Test cricket; humiliated when he was effectively put on probation for the first two Tests against Australia and ridiculed when his side collapsed to their lowest score, 51 all out, and ignominious defeat in the first of them.

His response has been beyond their wildest dreams. The other day, a reader wrote to *The Times* recalling how Worrell "ended the cliques and rivalries between players of various islands to weld together a team which in the space of five years became the champions of the world" and wondering if anyone could do it again. Well, Lara might now that he has learnt how to harness the genius that had already brought him the highest Test and first-class scores of 375 and 501.

His batting ability has never been in question, but even his best friends wondered whether he had the discipline to accede to the demands of the West Indies Cricket Board, the will to work with the team manager, Clive Lloyd, and the coach, Malcolm Marshall, the humility to listen to the sports psychologist, Dr Rudi Webster, and the patience to deal with players of lesser ability.

Whatever the reasons; whether he has heeded the warning spelt out to him by the board president, Pat Rousseau, and taken on board all the advice on offer from those around him, or just simply grown up, he is a changed man.

If he mentioned the "team effort" once after his stupendous 153 not out had been almost entirely responsible for the pulsating one-wicket victory in the third Test, he mentioned it a dozen times. "The team is more important than any individual," he said. "Everybody's going to have good periods and bad periods but what I am trying to find is a team that will perform well on a consistent basis."

It was music to the ears of the people he can now call his own and they danced their delight, not only around the Kensington Oval, but in the streets of Jamaica, Trinidad and Guyana and the towns and villages of the Windward and Leeward Islands.

Where there was despair, there is hope, with the veterans Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh and Jimmy Adams finding a new lease of life, Sherwin Campbell beginning to fulfil his potential and new players such as Ridley Jacobs, Nehemiah Perry and Pedro Collins emerging.

There is competition, too, for places, with Shivnarine Chanderpaul ready to return when his shoulder injury clears up and fast bowlers Franklyn Rose, Nixon McLean, Mervyn Dillon, Reon King and Corey Collymore queueing up for a chance.

BEN RADFORD / ALLSPORT



Lara raises his bat and a souvenir stump in triumph after hitting the winning runs in Bridgetown

The Australians must wonder what has hit them and none more so than Steve Waugh, who must be the only captain to have scored 199 and still contrived to lose a Test match.

He was dignified in defeat, rightly pointing out that it had been a wonderful game that somebody had to lose, but he is a worried man. He must know that many Australians here are questioning whether Mark Taylor, his predecessor, would have let the West Indies off the hook like he did when he had them reeling at 98-6 in reply to a total of 490 and chose to bowl Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill, his leg spinners, instead of Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie, the fast bowlers

He has also got to decide what he is going to do about two of his most trusted allies, Warne, his vice-captain and fellow selector, who seems to have been stripped of all his powers since his shoulder operation, and Ian Healy, the record-breaking wicketkeeper, whose sore calf muscles do not wholly explain his sad decline.

> 'If he spoke of team effort once, he said it a dozen times'

Warne was treated with utter contempt by Lara, and Healy dropped a catch that he would once have held when Lara was on 145 and the West Indies were still seven short of victory with only two wickets left.

"I would hate anybody to suggest that he cost us the match because that wasn't the case," Waugh said. "He was struggling a bit and the easy option for him would have been not to keep but he went out there and did it for Australia and I thought it was a great effort."

Even so, he admitted that the three of them had some talking to do before the final Test begins in Antigua on Saturday. "No one has a right to a place and the bottom line is that we have got to pick the side that we think is going to win," he said.

Whatever it is, Lara and his born-again West Indies will take some beating now.



LINKS

WEBSITE: www.cricket.org

SPORT IN BRIEF

Circuits make rival bids

■ **MOTOR SPORT:** Britain's leading motor racing circuits were last night involved in a bidding war for the right to stage the Formula One British Grand Prix (Kevin Eason writes). Nicola Foulston, chief executive of Brands Hatch, served notice on Silverstone that she is determined to win the contract for the grand prix, which brings with it the prospect of income worth an estimated £30 million.

Foulston seems certain to make a takeover offer of up to £50 million for Silverstone, which is regarded as the traditional home of British motor racing and which holds the contract for the race, with its worldwide television coverage, until 2001.

■ **BASKETBALL:** Michael Jordan is considering returning to the National Association (NBA) as a player for the Charlotte Hornets, it has been reported. It was already known that Jordan, who retired earlier this year after leading the Chicago Bulls to six championships, had held preliminary talks with the Hornets and NBA officials about purchasing a 50 per cent share of the team. However, the possibility of him playing for the Hornets is a new development.

■ **SNOOKER:** Dean Reynolds, the trousers of his dress suit covering an electronic ankle tag, made further progress towards securing a place in the competition proper of the Embassy world championship at Telford yesterday. Reynolds, awarded special dispensation to disregard a 7pm curfew imposed on his release from prison for a drink-driving offence, established a 5-2 lead over Joe Johnson in the penultimate qualifying round.

■ **OLYMPICS:** There will be 300 medal events at the 2000 Games after the Sydney organising committee gained approval to add synchronised diving to the programme.

'Words cannot do it justice'

By Our Sports Staff

YESTERDAY'S newspapers in Australia and the Caribbean were united in the belief that the West Indies had, indeed, deserved to win and had not been merely fortunate.

Haydn Gill in the *Daily Nation*, of Barbados, said: "From the cruel crucifixion to the renowned resurrection to the astonishing ascension. Amid unbearable tension, drama and excitement, Brian Lara confirmed his status as the modern day's greatest batsman with yet another brilliant, breathtaking century.

"Heartbeats fluttered, thousands sweated, fingernails were bitten, but through it all the left-handed genius defied then dominated Australia's attack, until his nearly impossible mission was accomplished. It will go down in the history books as one of the most spirited ever revivals, the victory coming from the depths of despair."

Malcolm Knox, in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, wrote: "The West Indies are at this moment a greater side than Australia because their resolve has been stronger and their inspiration richer. This gut-twisting, eyeball-popping match was a laboratory of emotion. Words cannot do justice to it."

Peace deal likely with Test grounds

By Richard Hobson

THE prospect of counties with Test-match grounds refusing to stage this summer's series against New Zealand has moved a step towards being averted. Further negotiations will take place between the Test Match Grounds Consortium (TMGC) and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) after progress reports at the ECB First Class Forum yesterday.

Talks will be held soon after Easter in an attempt to resolve what has become a delicate issue, but the TMGC — comprising representatives of Lord's, the Oval, Edgbaston, Trent Bridge, Old Trafford and Headingley — is confident that terms for hosting the four-match series, beginning on July 1, will be improved by the Board.

It wants a larger share of the ECB budget to finance improvements to grounds that are rarely full outside of international matches. It appears that suspicion of its motives among delegates from the non-Test staging counties was at least partially removed at Lord's yesterday.

The chief executive of one of the Test-ground counties said: "I think we have pulled back from the brink. The rest of the counties now understand our case better, although there is still not a lot of time left."

Final decisions on the matter of central contracts for England players will be taken at the next scheduled meeting on May 13. Contracts for the World Cup still have to be agreed after the England squad asked for the balance between match fees and performance-related increments to be changed.

The forum rejected the idea of abolishing the toss in county cricket to allow the visiting captain automatic choice to bat or bowl. The idea had been discussed as a way of stopping home sides producing surfaces to assist their own strengths.

Wisden condemns English 'apartheid'

By John Goodbody

ENGLISH club cricket is tainted by apartheid with many black and Asian players suffering from passive racial discrimination, the 1999 edition of *Wisden* states. The sport's "Bible" condemns both the informal segregation that is operating in areas such as Yorkshire and Essex and racial prejudice at the grass roots of the national game.

In *Notes by the Editor*, Matthew Engel writes: "In an informal, unspoken, very English way, cricketing apartheid has become accepted practice in England. The anti-racist banner has been picked up but mainly by people whose love of sloganising far exceeds their love of the game.

"This does not invalidate their essential point. I know of nothing that constitutes active racial discrimination in English recreational cricket. But there is a great deal of what might be called passive discrimination, a refusal to go the extra inch and welcome outsiders into a club's often clannish atmosphere."

Wisden points out that players from ethnic minorities gravitate towards their own clubs and there is "clear-cut evidence of segregation operating, informally, in both Yorkshire and Essex".

One result, the annual says, is that black and Asian players have become second-class in many ways, such as being forced to play on inferior wickets.

Lord Taylor of Warwick told the *Wisden* dinner in London that it was in cricket's own interest to be more inclusive, because they brought character into the game, while too few players from ethnic minorities were coming through into the England team.

A spokesman for the England and Wales Cricket Board said: "While we would never seek to be complacent about the dangers of racism, current evidence does not suggest that a system of discrimination operates within the game."

FOOTBALL RESULTS

European championship Qualifying group three

MOLDOVA (0) 0 N IRELAND (0) 0
9,237

Group four

RUSSIA (3) 6 ANDORRA (0) 1
Titov 8; Beschastnykh 11, 62; Onopko 32; Tsymbalar 50; Alenichev 90 — Sanchez 72

UKRAINE (0) 1 ICELAND (0) 1
Vashchuk 59 — Sigurdsson 66

Group seven

Tuesday's late results

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group one: Switzerland 1 Wales 0. **Group three:** Moldova 0 N Ireland 0. **Group nine:** Scotland 0 Czech Rep 1

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Wolverhampton 3 Crewe 0. **Second division:** Wigan 1 Bristol R 0. **Third division:** Plymouth 5 Scunthorpe 0; Rochdale 1 Southend 0

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Southport 0 Woking 0

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Millwall 1 Wimbledon 2; Middlesbrough 0 Newcastle 5. **Sixth round:** Arsenal 0 West Ham 0

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Colwyn Bay 0 Leigh RMI 1; Stalybridge 3 Altrincham ... Grantham 1, Weymouth 2 Dorchester 1. **Midland division:** Evesham 0 Shepshed Dynamo 0, Stourbridge 1 Stafford 1. **Southern division:** Bashley 2 Fleet 0; Tonbridge Angels 4 Erith and Belvedere 0, Witney 3 Sittingbourne 0

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Boreham Wood 0 Dag and Red 2; Chesham 2 St Albans 1, Dulwich 2 Hampton 1, Gravesend and Northfleet 4 Bishop's Stortford 1, Heybridge Swifts 1 Hendon 0. **First division:** Grays 1 Oxford City 0

ENDSLEIGH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Semi-final, first leg: Morecambe 1 Doncaster 2

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Barnsley 6 Leeds 1; Bolton 0 Everton 1, Crystal Palace 2 Charlton 1; Man City 0 Liverpool 2; Shefl Wed 2 Leicester 1. **Under-17:**

IRISH LEAGUE: Coca-Cola Cup: Quarter-final: Glentoran 2 Distillery 1

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby 1 Aston Villa 3, Leeds 3 Sunderland 1. **First division:** Grimsby 3 Burnley 2

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedfont 1 Merstham 3, Godalming and Guildford 4 Cranleigh 1, Raynes Park Vale 0 Ashford 0; Sandhurst 0 Ash 6, Viking Sports 2 Chessington and Hook 3, Walton Casuals 3 Cove 0

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Glossop North End 0 Ramsbottom 3, Prescot C 4 St Helens 1

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Sutton 2 Yeovil TR 3, Bridgwater 3 Backwell 0; Mangotsfield 2 Barnstaple 2; Odd Down 0 Westbury 1, Paulton 5 Calne 0. **Les Phillips Cup: Quarter-final:** Bristol Man-

ROWING: VETERAN BOAT RACE CREWS HIT TROUBLE ON THE TIDEWAY

Old Blues test the umpire's patience to limit

BY MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS "don't do what we do, do what we say," on the Tideway yesterday as the fourth Oxford and Cambridge Veteran Boat Race took place from Putney to Hammersmith.

Statements made earlier in the week by elder statesmen, that coxswains should work with the umpire rather than test him, were largely ignored and the former international, Rupert Obholzer, the man in charge, was given more trouble than he will hope to get when he umpires the Isis-Goldie reserve race on Saturday.

The rules require the veteran crews, mainly old Blues, to be aged over 35 and with a required average of at least 42, two of the oldest yesterday being Matt Stallard, 57, whose son is in the present Cambridge crew, and Alexander Lindsay, 60, uncle of the Oxford No 7.

The crews produced a neck-and-neck battle for the first two minutes although there had already been some wayward steering before both crews pushed far too wide at Fulham. Obholzer was flagging but the first serious clash occurred.

A more serious crash at the Mile broke the stretcher of the Oxford No 6, Tom Cadoux-Hudson, the Boat Race umpire who himself issued 132 warnings in 1997. Cambridge were now half a length ahead and, in spite of averaging three years older at 46, the Light Blues went on win one length ahead in 7min 44sec. The score stands at 2-2.

The Boat Race crews had a quieter day than their senior counterparts. Oxford had two outings, an early morning paddle finishing with brief starting practice, then a side-by-side paddle with Isis, practising the steering of the 4¼ miles.

Cambridge pitted themselves against their reserves, Goldie, in two brief rows. The first, from stake boats at Putney, saw the Light Blue boat finish a length ahead but in the second, at Chiswick, their margin was fractionally reduced to three-quarters of a length.

More will be revealed today when Mark Evans, this year's umpire, will perform separate rehearsals with the two crews.


LINKS

The 1999 Boat Race will be rowed on April 3 (3.30) and covered live on BBC1
WEBSITE:
www.regatta.rowing.org.uk/BoatRace/
TODAY'S OUTINGS: Oxford, 8am and 1pm, Cambridge, 9am and 1.15pm


MARC ASPLAND

Smith, a massive presence in the Cambridge boat, has changed positions this year and will be at No 7 rather than bow

Smith spurred to excel by additional responsibility

John Goodbody talks to a member of the Cambridge engine-room

The lure of taking part in the most celebrated event in British rowing can entice even an Olympic oarsman back to his studies. Graham Smith, No 7 in the Cambridge boat this year, describes the Games, in which he competed in Atlanta, and the Boat Race as "different mountains to climb, but both extremely attractive challenges".

Smith, a member of the Cambridge crew that won for the sixth year in succession in 1998, enjoyed the most successful international career of any British teenager, collecting two gold medals and a silver in the world junior championships, something that not even Steve Redgrave achieved.

The opportunity to spend two years at Cambridge has also given the chance to compensate academically for his disappointment at only getting a 2:2 in his philosophy finals at London University in 1997.

He has found the task of combining studying and training far easier at Cambridge. At University College, London, he had to juggle scholastic commitments and looking after himself in a flat with the seven-days-a-week training required of him as a member of the national squad, based at Henley.

At Cambridge, lectures, libraries, the college and boathouse are easily reached by a short cycle ride. Smith says that he saves hours of precious time each week. "London," he recalls, "was just stress."

When, at the age of 22, he arrived at St Edmund's College in the autumn of 1997 to read for a two-year BA degree in social and political science, he was described by Robin Williams, the Cambridge coach, as "a man on a mission". "He immediately brought a determination that was good for the Boat Club," Williams said.

Smith appeared destined for sucess from the time be began rowing, aged 13, at Westminster, a school that has provided Oxford with two of their most esteemed former coaches, "Jumbo" Edwards and Dan Topolski.

Graham, whose father, Mike, was a Scotland rugby union international, describes rowing as both an individual and team sport. "You have got to make yourself as good as you can. You have got to listen to what the coach is telling you as an individual, but you must also be concentrating on working with the crew as an entity," Smith said

This year, he sees himself as having a greater responsibility in the eight because he is one of the senior members and so he has taken "every viable measure" to improve his ability. "I have to reach a standard in physical performance and make others chase me," he added. He is 5lb lighter than in 1998 but fitter and stronger, being three to four seconds faster over 2,000 metres on the rowing machines, the equivalent of a length in a race.

He believes that having a female cox, Vian Sharif, this year, has altered the mood of the boat. She is minute, at 5ft and 6st 10lb, when compared to the other members of the crew. Smith, for example, is 6ft 4in and weighs in at over 14 stone. Sharif, 19, is without a doubt hugely accomplished, but her predecessor, Alastair Potts, was 26 and far more experienced.

"The approach has been different," Smith said. "You cannot shout at Vian because, understandably, she might break down and be very unhappy." The trick has been to get the best out of her, so that she can get the best out of the team.

Last year, Smith was at bow, a position he relished because it allowed him to feel the motion of the boat. "It is like being on the crest of a wave. The boat rises and falls. There is joy in the simple perfection of the movement. You feel this as the boat goes through the water."

Now he is just behind the stroke, a position in the engine-room where he often talks to the cox. "You are generating the rhythm of the boat and in an event as long as the Boat Race, you have to have a good rhythm.

"When the boat surges, it is you that is making it surge. Rowing is a competitive sport. Winning, and rowing well at the same time, is fantastic."

'I have to reach a performance standard and make others chase it'

Modahl tells Walker to bank on traumas ahead

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

DOUGIE WALKER was urged yesterday by Vicente Modahl not to give up the fight to clear his name if he is innocent. Walker was warned, however, that he would need a deep inner strength, an understanding bank manager and no little patience if he is to overturn his suspension and recover financial losses.

Diane Modahl, Vicente's wife, is still seeking compensation nearly five years after being sent home from the Commonwealth Games for failing a drugs test. It was on the day that she was due to defend her 800 metres title in Victoria, Canada, that she made front-page news by being withdrawn. She was reinstated 19 months into a four-year ban when the test was found to be unreliable.

While Modahl has been free to compete since March 1996, she and her husband are still tied by the chains of her initial conviction. Forced to sell their house, they have run up huge debts. Their bank account accumulated £5,700 in overdraft interest charges alone last year, according to Vicente.

The Modahls' action against the British Athletic Federation (BAF) remains unresolved. "By the time we finish the court case, our bill is going to be close to £1.5 million before damages," Vicente said. "With damages, it might be as high as £2 million.

"If you are innocent, and you know you are innocent, how much it costs is irrelevant because to clear your name is the most important single factor. The system is so flawed that innocent athletes will be found guilty because of incompetence and because the tests are not sophisticated enough."

Emotionally drained, the Modahls are angry that they have received neither a settlement offer nor a public apology from the sport's authorities. "It had a major traumatic effect on our lives and still has in many ways," Vicente said.


Diane Modahl: still trying to gain compensation

The Modahl case was the single biggest contributing factor in the BAF going bankrupt. It cost both parties hundreds of thousands of pounds and, so long as the court action remains unresolved, the BAF's creditors cannot be paid. They include, ironically, Walker.

Even after being reinstated, it was a further 2½ years before Diane Modahl began to exorcise the ghosts. In Kuala Lumpur last September, returning to the Commonwealth Games stage, she did not regain her title, but winning the bronze medal was just as important symbolically. "Diane improved dramatically from being a traumatised person after she won that medal," Vicente said.

"After what happened to her, she did not want to continue at all. If you are innocent and branded a cheat in the way that Diane was, in such a public way, it is very difficult to continue because you do not know where you are going to find the energy from."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 50

TRISKELION
(b) A line dividing a circle into three parts (cf. into four by a swastika). It appears on prehistoric earthenware vessels of the Late Bronze Age.

FLYSCH
(b) Deposits of marine sandstones, shales, marl and clays produced during the uplift of the Alps by sedimentation, and later deformation of the materials eroded from the uplifted rocks.

KURTOSIS
(b) A measure in statistics of the "peakedness" of the distribution of particle size. In the case of sediments, it relates to both sorting (standard deviation) and differences from a normal distribution (where a normal distribution would have a K value = 1). Phew.

PLACHUTTA THEME
(c) A theme in chess problems in which an initial sacrifice by white causes two defenders (RxR, QxR, or QxB) that can move onto the same square to hinder each other. Often the basis for three-move problems.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1 Rb7! causes insumountable problems as 1 ... Qxb7 2 Qxf6+ and mates.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Marketing the magic

Making It
BBC2, 7.30pm (not Scotland)

This upbeat film about Sophie Dickinson, a young British graphic designer who went straight from college to working on the British marketing of *A Bug's Life*, is not quite as blatant a plug for the computer-generated animation film (from the *Toy Story* team) as other recent behind-the-scenes efforts about Hollywood blockbusters. The film seemed to have had its thunder stolen by the release of *Antz*, but Disney's marketing strategy was, as you might expect, much slicker and heavier, involving everything from soft toys to hamburger chain children's meals. Dickinson is also seen at work on campaigns for a Mel Gibson film and *Somme*, a First World War epic.

Making It looks at the marketing of the Disney film *A Bug's Life* (BBC2, 7.30pm)

Playing the Field
BBC1, 9.30pm

Sally Wainwright's script for the final episode of the female football saga is a minor miracle of compression. The various subplots are not brought to neat conclusion but left in various authentic stages of irresolution: you can easily imagine the characters moving on and would love to follow their stories. However, given the way that the central storyline ends, this seems an impossible dream. The acting has been impressive throughout, often first-rate, from the most sympathetic of the characters (Lesley Sharp as Theresa, Jo McInness as Jo) to the least (Lee Ross as Ryan, Brigit Forsyth as his mother). Karen Mellor's idea for the series (based on Pete Davies's book) has been taken forward in excellent fashion by all concerned: the football has always remained integral, even during the most lurid digressions.

Naked Secrets
ITV, 10pm

Exposé or exploitation, docusoap or titillation? Many viewers will be watching simply because this is about one of the first of London's (and Britain's) pole-dance/lap-dance clubs. Young women, wearing no more than their knickers and high-heeled shoes, writhe around poles for the entertainment of male customers who pay hard cash to sit within inches of the dancers. Not much is said on the desirability of such establishments, some of which are set up away from the city centre in residential areas. The dancers choose to believe that they are not being exploited (or are at least well paid for it).

Wild Tales
Channel 4, 8pm

Serengeti Jigsaw is hardly a new idea: as the narration has it, the Serengeti National Park is one of the most filmed and well documented in the world. But it also retains its secrets and the ability to fascinate both the wildlife professionals and the viewer. This exemplary film demonstrates, directly and entertainingly, that although the three keys to the park are "grass, wildebeest and lions", literally dozens of species, from ants to antelopes, contribute to the richness of the fauna, and thousands of plant forms are vital to the crater's place in the forefront of African wildlife research. Don't miss the myriad grasses revealed in one shot by a simple change of camera focus. Oh, and don't watch while having dinner either. **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

Do Go On
Radio 4, 11pm

Griff Rhys Jones and Melanie Hudson star in this new comedy series in which they play, er, the presenters of one of those radio shows in which various guests are wheeled on to plug books, plays, wacky potions and absurd points of view. The series gets off to a promising start with a programme on health, including an interview with an ageing and crotchety nanny who is unable to have children of her own "for medical reasons. I couldn't stand it if they grew up to be doctors". Jones and Hudson play good cop, bad cop, with Jones as Ainsley Elliot coming over all smarm and ignorance, while Hudson as the right-on Jude Prentice takes the "come off it" role. Graeme Garden also appears and the script is by the cast.

At the Beeb
Radio 2, 9.30pm

This series is proving both entertaining and somewhat frustrating. For my money, more of the half-hour ought to be given to the individual performer featured each week. The case is made tonight with Kenneth Williams, who talks interestingly but at insufficient length about the difficult relationship with Tony Hancock on *Hancock's Half Hour*. That was Williams's break in radio comedy: he had been spotted in two plays by George Bernard Shaw for BBC drama. There are plenty of gems tonight from Hancock and, especially, the classic *Round the Horne*, where no play on words was too excruciating for inclusion: "He walked with an uneven gait." "Yes, I was taking it to the ironmongers." **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Kevin Greening **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce. The best in music **8.00** Radio 1 Live in London: Lamacq and Peel. Live sets from the University of London and the Improv Theatre, featuring Teri Benson, Echo and the Bunnymen and P.J. Harvey featuring John Parrish **12.00** Andy Kershaw **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** David Allen **8.00** Paul Jones **9.00** Take It Easy: California Cool (2/6) **9.30** At the Beeb. Kenneth Williams. See Choice (4/4) **10.00** The Alan Price Set (4/6) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Brian Hayes **12.00** The Midday News **1.00pm** Ian Payne **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** On the Line. Investigating attempts to make the sport of jet-skiing safe **8.00** Inside Edge **9.00** Hoops **9.30** Sportshop **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00** Justice With Jacobs **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** One to One with Andy Gray **8.00** Jackie Mason **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Gordon Astley

VIRGIN

6.30am Russ Williams **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** Richard Allen **4.30** Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Insight **8.30** Assignment **9.00** World News **9.05** From Our Own Correspondent **9.20** Off the Shelf: Badland **9.35** The Works **10.00** World News **10.05** Network **10.20** Andy Kershaw's World of Music **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Assignment **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** The Works **3.30** Meridian Books **4.00** World News **4.05** Sports Round-Up **4.15** Westway **4.30** The Greenfield Collection **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newdesk **6.30** Record News **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** Assignment **8.00** World News **8.05** The Works **8.30** Coffee - A Hellish Brew **8.45** Off the Shelf: Badland **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian Books **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** Blues World **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** The Works **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Westway **2.45** Performance **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports Round-Up **4.30** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easter Breakfast. A selection of rousing music to start the day **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents favourite music **2.00pm** Concerto. Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat major) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics **6.30** Newsnight **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Strauss (Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche); Mozart (A Musical Joke); Leopold Mozart (Toy Symphony), Kabalevsky (The Comedians), Verdi (The Lady and the Fool Suite) **11.00** Mann at Night. A chance to wind down with the sound of ambient music **2.00am** Concerto. Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat major) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Penny Gore presents arts news and music, including a review of a new installation based on Alfred Hitchcock's firm *Vertigo*
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Schubert (Valses sentimentales, D779); attrib Mahler (Overture: Rubezahl), Strauss (Burleske), Mozart (String Quartet in B flat, K589); Bartok (Music for strings, percussion and celesta)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Simon Rattle
11.00 Sound Stories: Five Music Critics Berlioz
12.00 Composer of the Week: Reger
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Tasmin Little, violin, Martin Roscoe, piano. Delius (Violin Sonata No 1); Beethoven (Violin Sonata in G, Op 30 No 3); Saint-Saens (Introduction and Rondo capriccioso, Op 28)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic under Rumon Gamba and Christopher Robinson. Howard Shelley, piano, Judith Howarth, soprano, Choir of St John's, Clare, Gonville and Caius Colleges, Cambridge
4.00 Ensemble (r)
4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson
5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty. Music includes Ravel (Concerto for piano left hand) performed by Jean-Yves Thibaudet with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra under Charles Dutoit
7.30 Performance on 3: Athalia Handel's oratorio of three acts, composed for the University of Oxford. Lynne Dawson, soprano, Nancy Argenta, soprano, Christopher Robson, counter-tenor, Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, St James's Baroque Players under Ivor Bolton
9.40 Postscript: Rereading Auden (4/5) (r)
10.00 Music Restored Lucie Skeaping introduces a selection of works passed off by the virtuoso violinist Fritz Kreisler as those of obscure 18th-century composers when they were, in fact, his own
10.45 Night Waves Jatinder Verma talks to the photographer Don McCullin about his fascination with India and discusses this view with the novelist Vikram Seth
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton is joined by Campbell Burnap to review the latest CDs
12.00 Composer of the Week: Schubert (r)
1.00am Through the Night Includes **1.00** Tchaikovsky (The Nutcracker). Danish NRSO under Michael Schonwandt **1.20** Nielsen (Symphony No 2) **1.55** Chan-Ka Nin (Suite: The Four Seasons) **2.15** Spohr (Duo in F) **2.30** Mozart (Horn Concerto in E flat, K495) **2.50** Boccherini (Guitar Quintet in C, G453) **3.30** Caurroy (Eleven Fantasias on 16th-Century Songs) **4.05** Glazunov (The Seasons) **4.40** Arensky (Suite No 1 in F) **5.05** Brahms (Academic Festival Overture) **5.15** Mozart (Fantasia in D minor, K397) **5.25** 15th-century anon (The Bordesholm Lament of the Virgin Mary, Part 2), Sequentia under Barbara Thornton and Benjamin Bagby

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Anna Hill presents rural news
6.00 Today with John Humphrys and James Naughtie
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Update on political developments
9.00 Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time Guests join Melvyn Bragg to consider ideas and events which have influenced the present age
9.30 Automatic for the People Alan Dein discovers how a schoolgirl's singing became a symbol of survival (2/4)
9.45 (FM) Serial: Pilate Fiona Shaw reads part four of Ann Wroe's book
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
10.00 Woman's Hour Jenni Murray presents. Including part four of *High Days, Holy Days*
11.00 Crossing Continents Violence in French schools and a look round the new European Parliament building. With Emily Buchanan
11.30 My Uncle Freddie by Alex Ferguson. Comedy set in Tyneside charting the relationship between a boy and his uncle. With Shaun Prendergast and Gareth Brown (3/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer news and investigations, presented by John Waite and Liz Barclay
1.00 The World at One
1.30 Open Country Richard Uridge tours the British countryside
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Pity about Kitty by Jimmie Chinn, starring Dora Bryan as all three characters implicated in an untimely demise (r)
3.00 Call You and Yours 0870 010 0444 Consumer justice programme, presented by Peter White
3.28 Radio 4 Appeal Michael Barry speaks on behalf of the Immigration Advisory Service (r)
3.30 Rigby's Red Herrings Graeme Rigby visits the Lofoten Islands, where Susanne Lundeng regales him with fishermen's fiddle tunes (3/4) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 64 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 Nice Work Alison Mitchell investigates the changing world of work
4.30 The Material World Trevor Phillips explores painless dental treatments
5.00 PM 6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 That Reminds Me Barry Took looks back over a career in comedy (2/6)
7.00 The Archers The latest from Ambridge
7.15 Front Row Round-up of arts news, presented by John Wilson
7.45 High Days, Holy Days Readings of works on an Easter theme. Broadcast earlier (r)
8.00 What If? Christopher Andrew and guests including Michael Portillo imagine how germ warfare could affect the United States (4/4)
8.30 The Week in Westminster Peter Riddell of *The Times* takes a look behind the political scenes
9.00 Leading Edge Geoff Watts reports on scientific developments
9.30 Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: My Mother's House Written by Colette and read by Janet Suzman (r)
11.00 Late Night on 4: Do Go On See Choice
11.30 Your Place or Mine? Preparations for a 1993 celebration in a Sicilian town to mark its links with baseball legend Joe DiMaggio (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Age of Austerity Peter Hennessy introduces Pearson Phillips' essay *The New Look*, describing the impact of Paris fashions on postwar Britain
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

Marriage, the new entertainment experience

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Hey, you! Yes, *you!* Wanna marry me? Whaddya mean you don't even *know me? That's the whole point:* you get hitched to a stranger. It's a, like, retro thing: a spiritual return to the days when matchmakers brought strangers together. Half the world still operates this way. And it's gonna be the next big thing in Britain, too. Only instead of a professional go-between, you get a radio station or a TV show to act as mediator, just like the Birmingham radio station BRMB did in January when they brought together Carla Germaine and Greg Cordell, who met each other *for the first time at their wedding* ceremony. And instead of a dowry, the radio station offered alternative inducements — a car, a *Caribbean holiday, a flat.*

Think of it as traditional values in a modern setting. Marriage, new Labour-style.

Last night's **Two Strangers and a Wedding** (ITV), which followed the selection and blind-date wedding of the happy couple, turned BRMB's marketing ploy into a real-life version of *The Truman Show* as BRMB's executives and DJs shaped the lives of these people for our entertainment. And the enthusiasm with which the single people of Birmingham threw themselves into this experiment, vying for a chance to be the bride and groom, shows how much need there is for such a service in today's society.

It could be television's saviour. Just as the people offering themselves in the lonely hearts columns of different newspapers and magazines reflect the tone and interests of those publications, so different TV programmes could each have a *Two Strangers and a Wedding* segment to bring together like-minded singles from among their regular viewers. Every show could benefit, from *Newsnight* ("Well do you take Carla to be your lawful wedded wife. Well do you? Come along, come along, Greg") all the way to Delia Smith's *How to Cook* ("The way to find out if a potential husband is really fresh is to immerse him in a pot of cold water — it must be unsalted — and see if he floats to the surface or just rests on the bottom of the pot").

For the bride's role it was soon down to a shortlist of just Carla and Jane. As *Jane's father explained,* "She says, 'Dad, I've been around the world twice and I've been out with many different fellas — Polish, German, French, you name it I've been with them.' 'Dad,' she says, 'and at the end of the day I can't pick the right one.' And if she can't pick the right one after all this time travelling round the world, then you've gotta say to yourself, well, you know, hopefully somebody else can do the job for her."

It makes you appreciate how authoritarian communism was tolerated for so long in Russia: it must have been a relief for many people to have someone else making all the important decisions in their life for them. But then Russell Grant swung the whole thing by saying that Carla's and Greg's astrological charts matched. Maybe jilted Jane has now set off restlessly for yet one more lap of the world to test-run those nationalities she overlooked on her first two circuits.

As for the wedding service itself, it was unusual not only in giving the Hyatt a name check but in including the novel opening line, "Can I ask you please to both stand. Would you like to pose now?" We saw some emotion or other flicker across Carla's face as she got her first glimpse of the man she would later be sharing a bed with. Was it just wedding day nerves? Or was she thinking that she had made a terrible mistake? Either way, a scriptwriter couldn't have hoped for more — a seed of doubt planted in our minds.

And then, suddenly, the whole thing stopped being such an amusing jape. The last five minutes of this documentary hit you like a hangover. Carla and Greg really had become Jim Carrey in *The Truman Show,* two people whose lives were being shaped purely for the entertainment of radio and TV audiences. Pauline Collins's tongue-in-cheek narration began to sound a little creepy. It was the chill of reality you experience the morning after the night before. Lord only knows what Carla and Greg's real morning-after feeling was like. Well, the Lord and the ITV crew that has exclusive rights to film them. We will get to find out, too, in three weeks when the second half of this drama-documentary is broadcast.

I don't know how responsible any of us should feel if Carla and Greg's marriage ends in tears, but I do feel partly responsible for the bankruptcy last year of the Pierre Victoire restaurant chain, whose resurrection was documented in **Trouble at the Top: Too Many Cooks** (BBC2). Not only did I stop going there, I never ever went in the first place. I'm now grateful that on the one occasion I tried to have lunch at the Edinburgh branch during the Festival a few years ago, there were no free tables, because I learnt last night that a long pipe emerging from a wall and finishing in mid-air just above the dining tables was the ventilation from the loos. The new owners have sorted this out, but it seems odd that nobody noticed this before. Maybe the diners assumed that the aroma was part of the authentic French bistro experience.

Hunting Venus (ITV) had a brilliant cast (Martin Clunes, a busty Neil Morrissey, Mark Williams, Jane Horrocks) performing a film-length drama that was amiably amusing, but also so preposterously plotted and creakily scripted that you had to assume it really was *supposed* to have the feel of a 1960s Cliff Richard movie, or of a very elongated episode of *The Monkees.*

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (79081)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (91130)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9394826)
9.45 Style Challenge (8033246)
10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (9843569)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (9339623)
11.00 Change That (9316772)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (9326159)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (8449802)
12.00 Call My Bluff (93449)
12.30pm Wipeout (2056517)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (11955284)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (12307)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58393536)
1.40 **Neighbours** *Karl battles to save Joel's life* (T) (16544333)
2.05 Ironside Chief tries to discover how a nightclub psychic knows so much about *a series of arson attacks (r) (1432791)*
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (2408246)
3.25 Children's BBC: Pocket Dragon (5199265) **3.35** Anthony Ant (5956371) **3.45** *All New Popeye Show (4462994)* **3.55** Rugrats (7359265) **4.20** Home Farm Twins (5132642) **4.35** Goosebumps (7833975) **5.00** Newsround (5865772) **5.10** Grange Hill (2626371)
5.33 Rewind (T) (425739)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (837284)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (36)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (88)
7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer investigation show (T) (4913)
7.30 EastEnders Peggy and Frank's wedding day arrives (T) (636555)
8.10 Harbour Lights Mike keeps his team on their toes during a dull close season by practising whale rescue techniques, while Kelly Blade slopes off to spend time with a new boyfriend (T) (117130)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (4994)



Geraldine (Lorraine Ashbourne) has to face up to the truth (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE Playing the Field The series *draws to a close with* Geraldine finally facing up to the truth about her father (T) (506062)
10.20 They Think It's All Over Again Light-hearted sports quiz. Last in series (r) (T) (314915)
10.55 Mrs Merton and Malcolm Mr Merton passes away. Last in series (6/6) (r) (T) (122333)
11.20 The Word on the Street Families caring for sick relatives (5/7) (194826)
11.35 Flight of the Intruder (1991) Willem Dafoe and Danny Glover star in this Vietnam War drama. *Directed by John* Milius (T) (488178) FILM
1.25am Weather (5045531)
1.30 BBC News 24 (5376956)

WALES:
10.20-10.55 High Hopes (314915) **1.25am-1.30 News** (T) (5045531)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Polka Dot Shorts **7.10** The Silver Brumby **7.30** Inch High Private Eye **7.55** The Bots Master **8.20** Buried Treasure **8.40** Blue Peter **9.10** Goober and the Ghost Chasers **9.35** Student Bodies **10.00** Teletubbies **10.30** FILM: Blackbeard's *Ghost* **12.15pm** Cartoons **12.30** *Working* Lunch **1.00** Wishing
1.10 The Leisure Hour (r) (1137517)
2.10 Sporting Greats (89209265)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (8610617)
2.45 Match of Their Day (T) (5466449)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (5106555)
3.30 The Village (r) (2835555)
3.55 **Kaye** *Advice show (2810246)*
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (7428197)
4.55 Esther (T) (9610807)
5.30 Whose House? (65)
6.00 Electric Circus *The latest entertainment* news (T) (881371)
6.20 The Simpsons Marge is bitten by the gambling bug (r) (T) (869159)
6.45 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine An alien delegation forces Quark to play a deadly game (r) (T) (349772)
7.30 CHOICE Making It A graphic designer gets her first big break with a London company commissioned to promote *A Bug's Life* (T) (2)
8.00 2 DIY 4 New series. The carpenter Rics *Martin and the plumber Tony Elvin take* DIY novices through basic tasks in easy stages (T) (8975)
8.30 Top Gear James May and Julia Bradbury *test-drive the Toyota Yaris* (T) (2410)
9.00 Red Dwarf Pete the Sparrow is turned into a dinosaur (T) (2536)



Body casts of victims of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD79 (9.30pm)

9.30 Horizon Attempts by geologists to gain a more accurate perspective on the *volcanic eruption which destroyed the* city of Pompeii in AD79 (r) (T) (504604)
10.20 Vintners' Tales A wine producer near Bury St Edmunds (r) (T) (693739)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (539710)
11.15 Late Review Includes Vikram Seth's new novel (697468)
11.55 The Phil Silvers Show (r) (644008)
12.25am Weather (2520550)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: The Three Degrees **1.00** Shooting Video History **1.50** Open Late: Health and Social Welfare **2.00** Exam Revision: GCSE Bitesize Revision — Mathematics 2 **4.00** Teaching Film and Media: Film Education **4.30** Film Education: The Producer's Tale **5.00** Teacher Training: *The Bridge* **5.45** *Open University: Our* Health in Our Hands **6.10** Immigration, Prejudice and Ethnicity

WALES
6.00pm-6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer (T) (590159) **7.30 Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age** (T) (2) **8.00-8.30 A Welsh Herbal** (6/6) (8975)

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (15371)
6.00 GMTV (2237536)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3980807)
10.30 This Morning (T) (49597975)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7450159)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (2074913)
12.55 Shortland Street (1133791)
1.30 Home and Away Chloe harbours suspicions (T) (16540517)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5408975)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2497130)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5105826)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5104197)
3.20 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (5185062) **3.30** The Adventures of Dawdle (5959468) **3.40** The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (4458791) **3.50** Lavender Castle (5953284) **4.05** Hey Arnold! (7411807) **4.30** Children's Ward (9)
5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (6517)
5.30 Pleasure Guide Magazine covering the region's entertainment (T) (91)
5.30 WALES: Crazy Creatures A tarantula enthusiast (T) (91)
5.58 HTV Weather (422642)
6.00 HTV News (T) (84)
6.26 HTV Crimestoppers (432230)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (4)
7.00 Emmerdale Paddy plays peacemaker between the warring Dingles (T) (9081)
7.30 WEST: We Can Work It Out with Judy Finnigan and the team (8)
7.30 WALES: Wales This Week (8)
8.00 The Bill Two witnesses to an arson attack withdraw their evidence (T) (7710)
9.00 Every Woman Knows a Secret On the run from the British police, Jess and Rob grow closer in their Italian hideout. Last in series (3/3) (T) (4246)



The girls at the Secrets club prepare to go on stage (10pm)

10.00 CHOICE WEST: Naked Secrets A revealing insight into a Hammersmith strip club (T) (7333)
10.00 WALES: In the Company of Strangers Mairead takes a terrible risk (3/3) (7333)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (571826)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (466555)
11.30 WEST: A Trip in the Cosmic Buggy The pub and club scene (T) (88178)
11.30 WALES: We Can Work It Out Shopping on the Internet (88178)
12.00 WEST: Public Morals Confiscated money goes missing (r) (68043)
12.00 WALES: Tales from the Darkside Fredrica Duke stars (68043)
12.30am The Jerry Springer Show (9606444)
1.15 Trainspotters Sydney's Mardi Gras celebrations (368024)
2.15 Pop Down the Pub (r) (8195314)
2.40 Box Office America (4475227)
3.05 **Cybernet** *Computer news (84830227)*
3.35 Murder, She Wrote (2236734)
4.25 Coach (82191109)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (3741956)

CENTRAL

As HTV West *except:*
12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (9678888)
12.55 Home and Away (2059604)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4223420)
2.10-2.40 Echo Point (89296791)
3.15-3.20 ***Central News; Weather*** *(5104197)*
5.30 Shortland Street (91)
6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather (84)
11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (466555)
11.30-12.35 Wonderful You (230807)
1.20am Jenny (1615839)
1.50 Pop Down the Pub (4228579)
2.15-3.10 T in the Park (7612111)
3.35 The Making of Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels (44279598)
4.00 Central Jobfinder '99 (7485444)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9998802)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (7450159)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (9686807)
12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live *(2059604)*
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4223420)
2.10-2.40 Home and Away (89296791)
3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (5104197)
4.58-5.00 Birthday People (1173332)
[illegible] **Dig it with Den** (91)
6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (84)
11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (466555)
11.30-12.30 Wonderful You (37710)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7450159) **5.30 Ridgeriders** (T) (91) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (84) **7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather** (169081) **11.20 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (466555) **11.30-12.30 Fitz** (T) (37710) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (33918)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (9680623) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (9678888) **5.30-6.00 About Anglia** (91) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (84) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (969474) **11.20 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (466555) **11.30 Crime Night** (970468) **11.45-12.00 The Ticket** (r) (968623)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (28363807) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (21662994) **9.05** *FILM: Batman* (T) *(12864951)* ***11.00 Boy Meets World*** (T) (90934536) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (90935265) **12.00 Bewitched** (T) (63764333) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (T) (93655401) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (69293130) **1.30 FILM: The Red Beret** (T) (21372913) **3.00 Doors to Manual** (T) (41094371) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (99616284) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99695791) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (99691975) **5.00 Planed Plant** (41073888) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (99615555) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (49149975) **6.10 Heno** (T) (39920420) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41086352) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (99692604) **8.00 Slaymaker** (T) (41062772) **8.30 Pam Fi Duw?** (T) (41081807) **9.00 i dot** (27713975) **10.00 Father Ted** (T) (51430420) **10.35 Friends** (T) (81422623) **11.05 The 11 O'Clock Show** (85077826) ***11.35 King of the Hill*** (T) (67667555) **12.05am Dispatches** (T) (15679550) **12.35 Rising Damp** (T) (61802956) **1.05 Prey** (T) (63927550) **2.00 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.35am Pink Panther (2174642)
5.55 Sesame Street (5333975)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (24468)
9.00 Batman (1966) Adventure. Adam West and Burt Ward star. Directed by Leslie H. Martinson (T) (90913) FILM
11.00 Boy Meets World (T) (7468)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (8197)
12.00 Sesame Street (T) (86159)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (37371)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (27555)
1.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman Changes in the marine environment (r) (T) (16548159)
1.55 Eight O'Clock Walk (1954) An innocent taxi driver is put on trial for the murder of an eight-year-old girl. Courtroom drama, starring Richard Attenborough. Directed by Lance Comfort (T) (21996826) FILM
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (62)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (7)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7850642)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9605975)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (33)
6.00 Friends Phoebe attracts the unwanted attentions of a stalker (r) (T) (46)
6.30 Hollyoaks Sol fears for Gina's state of mind (T) (6)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (127456)
7.55 Dovetails A mother's hopes for her child's future (4/8) (952913)



A leopard of the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE Wild Tales *Alan Root* explores the intricate relationships among the diverse creatures that make up the food chain of the Serengeti National Park (T) (5352)
9.00 Rising Damp Rigsby invests in some new furniture (r) (T) (7604)
9.30 Dispatches In the wake of the recent disaster in the Austrian resort of Galtur, this film examines the danger posed by avalanches (T) (24807)
10.00 NYPD Blue The squad investigate the death of a well-heeled man in a park, and *Simone learns he has to have a heart* transplant (T) (5975)
11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show Satirical news show (9449)
11.30 Ally McBeal *Ally is reunited with Glenn,* her recent one-night stand (r) (T) (35352)
12.30am 4 Later Introduction; Prey (58376)
1.30 Vids Offbeat video review (24604)
2.00 Late Toon: The Singing Teacher Animation (5040550)
2.05 NYPD Blue (r) (T) (7621869)
3.00 St Elsewhere (r) (T) (3923024)
3.50 The Entertainer (1960) John Osborne's classic drama, starring Laurence Olivier. A down-at-heel comedian looks back at his failure both as an entertainer and as a man. Joan Plowright also stars. Directed *by Tony Richardson (T) (270685)* FILM
5.35 How We Used to Live Short film about the Bulldog Spirit of the British in the Second World War (r) (T) (2141314)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headline round-up (5198197)
7.00 WideWorld Part 10. Building blunders and the future of the tower block (r) (T) (2048913)
7.30 Milkshake! (2836371)
7.35 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (4267284)
8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (r) (8047517)
8.30 Witchworld (r); 5 News Update (8046888)
9.00 Holiday Park The Glamorous Granny contest fails to attract entries (r) (4901913)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (3478081)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6067265)
10.20 Sunset Beach Francesca agrees to Gregory's plan (T) (4450739)
11.10 Leeza (r) (3115604)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8040604)
12.30pm Family Affairs Benji gives in to peer pressure (r) (T) (1639343)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Jasmine recognises the rapist (T) (2047284)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Part two. The bubbly comedian talks to fellow chat *show host Oprah Winfrey (r);* 5 News Update (2089884)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (2341401)
2.30 Good Afternoon An hour of *entertainment* (8934371)
3.30 The Command (1954) A Wild West doctor gets caught up in conflict between Indians and the US Cavalry. Western, starring Guy Madison and Joan Weldon. Directed by David Butler (2118159) FILM
5.20 5 News (59468913)
5.25 Russell Grant's Postcards Swiss chocolate (59467284)
5.30 100 Per Cent (6345468)
6.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (T) (6335081)
6.30 Family Affairs Clive faces humiliation (T) (6326333)
7.00 Knight Rider Michael poses as a security guard as part of a State Department mission to foil an assassination attempt at a political conference (2352517)
7.30 Nature of Oz A pod of dolphins *living* happily in close proximity with people in the busy inlets and rivers of a big Australian port (T) (6322517)
8.00 The Pepsi Chart Reef and The New Radicals perform live (2361265)
8.30 Viva España *While the youngsters have* a ball, expats Marion and Derek discover that their Costa del Sol retirement dream home is not going to get planning permission (2/8) (2340772)
9.00 Them (TVM 1995) A scientist uncovers evidence suggesting that aliens are plotting to take over the plane. Sci-fi thriller, with Scott Patterson, Clare Carey, *Dustin Voigt and Tony Todd. Directed by* Charles Grant Craig, Patrick Gilmore (T); 5 News Update (23744536) FILM
10.40 Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment *Comedy quiz (4855623)*
11.15 Red Shoe Diaries Erotic drama, starring Matt Le Blanc (1478975)
11.50 Live and Dangerous Through-the-night sports magazine (63204604)
5.30am 100 Per Cent (r) (6132647)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (51536) **7.30** Grimmy (63371) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (25062) **8.30** Godzilla (24333) **9.00** Pokemon (48913) **9.30** Simpsons (59517) **10.00** Simpsons (13856) **10.30** Xena: Warrior Princess (11623) **11.30** Earthworm Jim (69420) **12.00** Tarzan: Epic Adventures (72468) **1.00pm** Mad About You (50807) **1.30** Jeopardy (52604) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (14517) **3.00** Jenny Jones (70536) **4.00** Pokemon (3739) **4.30** Shadow Raiders (8623) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (8994) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (6888) **6.30** Dream Team (8028) **7.00** The Simpsons (9623) **7.30** The Simpsons (9352) **8.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (8371) **8.30** World's Weirdest TV (4178) **9.00** Friends (86555) **9.30** ER (49284) **10.30** Veronica's Closet (45836) **11.00** Dream Team (50772) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (39197) **12.30am** Law and Order (16314) **1.30** Long Play (4998005)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51)
Chasing Amy (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Jackie Brown (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Flubber (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Kiss the Girls (1998)

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Northern Lights (1997) (76604) **8.00 Nico the Unicorn (1998)** (36739) **10.00 Warriors of Virtue (1997)** (55791) **12.00 Little Shop of Horrors (1986)** (19062) **2.00pm Northern Lights (1997)** (39772) **4.00 Nico the Unicorn (1998)** (1468) **6.00 Warriors of Virtue (1997)** (57456) **8.30 The Garden of Redemption (1997)** (68339371) ***10.10 Fled (1996)*** (536888) **11.50 Sleeping with the Enemy (1991)** (923826) **1.30am Surviving Picasso (1996)** (51903937) **3.35**

Friendship's Field (1996) (18333) ***11.00*** **Cab to Canada (1998)** (83449) **1.00 A Fight for Justice (1996)** (29449) **3.00 Friendship's Field (1996)** (33913) **5.00 Miracle in the Woods (1997)** (34710) ***7.00*** *Independent's Day (93975)* **8.00 Alien Abduction: The McPherson Tape (1997)** (22197) **9.30 The Jerky Boys (1995)** (96913) **11.00 Crying Freeman (1997)** (859517) **12.45am Alien Nation: *Millennium* (TVM 1996)** (125531) **2.15 Alien Nation: Body and Soul (1995)** (146024) **3.45 Basquiat (1996)** (721869)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Stars Look Down (1939) (7650265) **6.00 The Girl He Left Behind (1956)** (8603866) **8.00 The Left-Handed Gun (1958)** (3653361) **10.00 The Long Hot Summer (1958)** (7631401) **12.00** ***Next Stop, Greenwich Village (1976)*** (9401956) **1.50am** The Directors: The Films of James Cameron (1453376) **2.50 An Annapolis Story (1955)** (97866840) **4.20 The Girl in Room 17 (1953)** (6403395)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm The Breaktime (1972) (5900420) **6.15 The White Balloon (1995)** (4953710) **7.40** A Hedgehog in the Fog (7259130) ***8.00 Stand By Me (1986)*** *(41491804)* ***9.35*** Week In, Week Out (2078802) **10.00 Raining Stones (1993)** (5566130) **11.35 Angela (1994)** (4273284) **1.25am Amateur (1994)** (9751531) **3.05 Heavenly Creatures (1994)** *(1822111)* ***4.45*** **The Brain from Planet Arous (1957)** (5796395) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm The Sunshine Boys ***(1975)*** (78752361) **11.15 Wise Guys (1986)** (35276130) **1.00am A Day at the Races (1937)** (90629937) **3.00 The Best House in London (1969)** (84924869) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.30** Watersports World **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Ringside **11.30** Unbelievable Sports **12.00** Aerobics **12.30pm** International Football **2.00** Rugby League World **3.30** Watersports World **4.30** [...] **5.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Football

Sports! ***1.00*** *Super League* ***2.30*** *Rugby* Club **3.30** League Review **4.00** Futbol Mundial **4.30** Sports Centre **4.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am *Aerobics* ***7.30*** *Sports Centre* ***7.45*** Racing News **8.15** Unbelievable Sports **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** World Pool League **11.00** Golf Extra **2.00** Sports Unlimited **3.00** Australian Rally *Championship* **3.30** International Football **5.00** Football League Review **5.30** Futbol Mundial **6.00** What A Weekend **6.30** The Rugby Club **7.30** Motor Racing **8.00** Motor Racing **10.00** Live US Golf **12.00** European *Tour Golf* **1.00am** Motor Racing **3.00** Trans World Sport **4.00** Sports Centre **4.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am Watersports World **1.00pm** Fish *TV* ***2.00*** *FA Cup Final Classics* ***3.30*** ***Motor*** Racing **5.30** Motor Racing **6.00** Survival of the Fittest **6.30** Inside the PGA Tour **7.00** European Tour Golf **8.00** What A Weekend **8.30** Futbol Mundial **9.00** Trans World Sport ***10.00*** *Football Scrapbook* ***11.30*** *Close*

EUROSPORT

7.30am Football **11.30** Live Swimming **2.00pm** Football **4.00** Live Women's Tennis **5.30** Racing Line **6.30** *Extreme Sports* ***7.00*** Swimming **8.00** Live Women's Tennis **9.30** Football **11.00** Racing Line **12.00** Extreme Sports **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Only Fools and Horses **8.50** Only Fools and Horses **9.30** Only Fools and Horses **11.20** Only Fools and Horses **12.00** The Bill **12.30am** The Bill **1.00** Between the Lines **2.00** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em **2.45** with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** How's Your Father? **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** [...]

Merlin the Magician tutors a young boy who is destined to become King Arthur in *Sword in the Stone* (Disney Channel, 7pm)

Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart To Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic *Coronation Street* ***7.00*** *The Professionals* **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters' Social Club **11.00** Granada Men and Motors

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon **8.00** Safe and Sound **8.30** An Inspector Calls **9.00** St Elsewhere **10.00** A Marriage of Inconvenience **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** [...]

New! **11.00** Smart Guy **11.30** Teen Angel **12.00** Boy Meets World **12.30pm** Brotherly Love **1.00** Dinosaurs **1.30** Amazing Animals **1.55** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.10** Bite Size **2.20** Bear in the Big Blue House **2.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Sword in the Stone (1963) 8.20** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.05** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Masked Rider **6.30** Beetleborgs Metallix **6.55** Power Rangers Turbo **7.20** Power Rangers Turbo **7.45** Silver Surfer **8.10** Mortal Kombat **8.35** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **9.00** [...]

of the Spy Dogs **10.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **11.00** Goosebumps **11.25** Dennis and Gnasher **11.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **12.00** Goosebumps **12.25pm** The Incredible Hulk **12.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **1.00** Goosebumps **1.25** Fantastic Four **1.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **2.00** Goosebumps **2.25** X-Men **2.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **3.00** Goosebumps **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero *Turtles: The Next Mutation* ***5.00*** *Dennis and* Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** EekIStravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Brothers Flub **6.30** Brothers Flub **7.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters **7.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters **8.00** Catdog **8.30** Catdog **9.00** Rugrats **9.30** Rugrats **10.00** The Wild *Thornberrys* ***10.30*** *The Wild Thornberrys* **11.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **11.30** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **12.00** Moesha **12.30pm** Moesha **1.00** Renford Rejects **1.30** Renford Rejects **2.00** Hey Arnold! **2.30** *Hey Arnold!* ***3.00*** *Rugrats* ***3.30*** *Rugrats* **4.00** Rugrats **4.30** Sister Sister **5.00** Kenan and Kel **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm Hoot **8.10** You Gotta *See This* ***9.10*** Hoot **9.15** When Cars Attack **10.15** Hoot **10.25** The Late Lounge **11.00** Hoot **11.05 FILM: Porky's (1982) 1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** You Gotta See This **3.00** ***FILM: Porky's*** **(1982) 5.00** When Cars Attack **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Mad About You **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost Perfect **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Mork and Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 9pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television [...]

1.00pm The Twilight Zone **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** *PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal* **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00 FILM: Steven King's Silver Bullet (1985) 12.00** Twin Peaks **1.00am FILM: Tennis Court (1984) 2.30** The Twilight Zone **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Yan Can Cook — The Best of Asia **7.00** Homemaker **7.30** Period Rooms **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** The Great Gardening Plot **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** The Diceman **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00** Our House Down Under **12.30pm** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Home Savvy **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Charlie West Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** A River Somewhere **5.00** Searching for Lost Worlds: Tutankhamen **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Ways of the Wild **7.30** Futureworld **8.00** Discover Magazine **9.00** Science Frontiers **10.00** Engineering Disasters **11.00** *Forensic Detectives* ***12.00*** Super Structures **1.00am** Searching for Lost Worlds: Tutankhamen **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am *Hollywood Safari* ***1.00pm*** *Kratt's* Creatures **1.30** Animals in Danger **2.00** Tiger Hunt: The Elusive Sumatran **3.00** Born To Be Free **4.00** Life with Big Cats **5.00** Wildlife Rescue **6.00** Pet Rescue **7.00** *Wildlife SOS* ***7.30*** *Wildlife SOS* ***8.00*** *Animal* Doctor **9.00** Emergency Vets **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Emergency Vets **10.30** Emergency Vets **11.00** Emergency Vets **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm The Dolphin Society **7.30** All Aboard Zaire's Amazing Bazaar **8.00** Family **9.00** Extreme Earth: Tornado **10.00** [...]

HISTORY

4.00pm The Winter War: The Will to Defend **5.00** Helicopters **5.55** Photos for the Future **6.00** Mystical Monuments of Ancient Greece **7.00** Story of the Gun: Wild Frontiers **8.00** Memories of 1971

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** Chef for a Day **10.30** Nancy Lam's Wok Wiz **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal Home Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Food Factory **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** The Green Gourmet **2.00** For Better, For Worse **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Simply Fish **3.45** More Simply Antony **4.00** Mridula's Indian Kitchen **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Johnson and Friends **6.40** Tiny Tales **6.45** Babaloos **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** The Roseanne Show: Highlights **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** The Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Through the Keyhole **5.10** The Heat Is On **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Shame (1992) 11.00** Sex Files **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

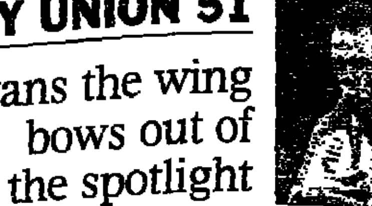
6.00am Hasya Te Na Ghar Vasya **5.30** Hit Thi Hit Hai **6.00** Hero Kal Aaj Aur Kal **6.30** Awaz Nayee Andaz Wohi **7.00** Faith **7.30** *News* ***8.00*** *Karoban Duniya* ***8.30*** *Tara* ***9.00*** *Zanjeeren* **9.30** Zee Health Show **10.00** Urdu Drama **11.00** Pot Luck **11.30** Parampara **12.00 FILM 3.00pm** Bangla TV: Nokhatrer Rat **3.30** Public Demand **4.00** *Akbar Birbal* ***4.30*** *Fairdeal Anmakshari* ***5.30*** Teacher **6.00** Pop Time **6.30** Hip Hip Hurray **7.00** Gudgudee **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News **8.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **9.00** Hasratein **9.30** Blunt 2 **10.30** X-Zone **11.30**



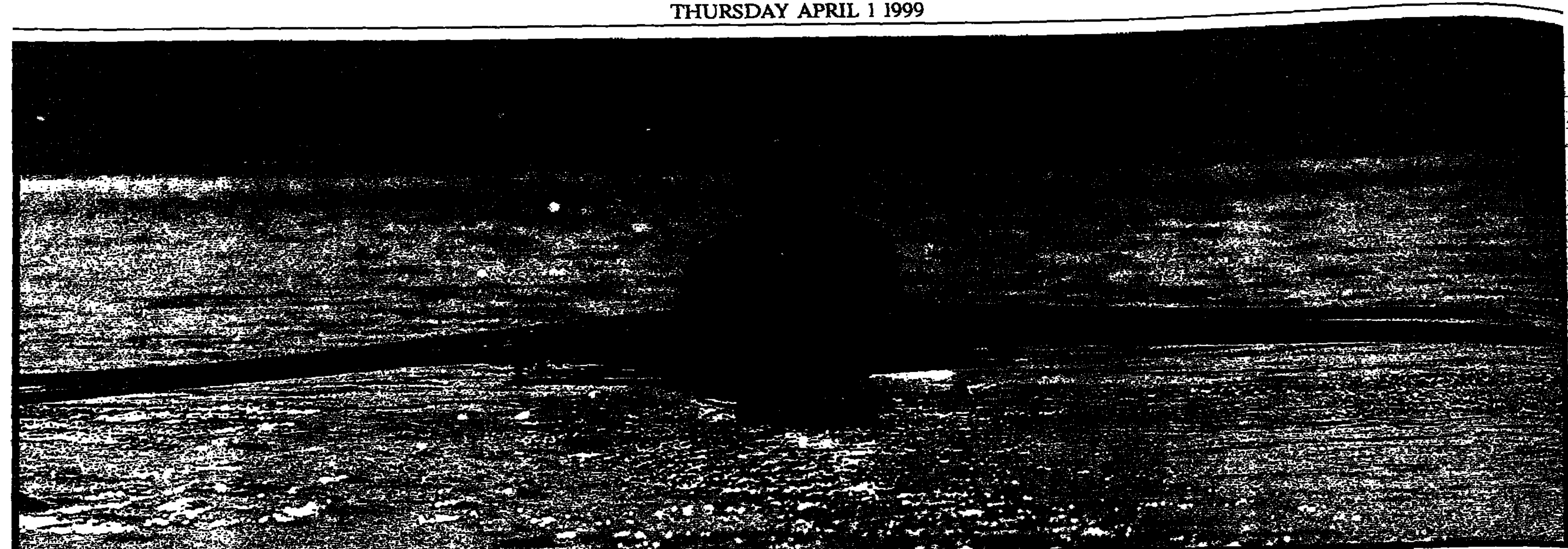
SWIMMING 50
Britons foster dreams of gold at world finals

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 51
Evans the wing bows out of the spotlight



THURSDAY APRIL 1 1999



With the early-morning sunshine glistening off the Thames, the Oxford Boat Race crew set out on the first of their two outings, an early morning paddle finishing with brief starting practice, yesterday. Reports, page 54. Photograph: Tom Hevezi

Sprint champion facing lifetime Olympic suspension

Shattered Walker fears high cost of drugs ban

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

DOUGIE WALKER, the European 200 metres champion, was suspended yesterday after it was confirmed that he had a case to answer over a failed drugs test and he is now facing a lifetime Olympic ban if found guilty. Protesting his innocence, Walker vowed to clear his name — if he can afford to.

Walker voiced fears that the cost of fighting the case might prohibit him from going all the way through the courts, should the ban be upheld by a disciplinary hearing. "You can end up ruining yourself over something you have not done." Walker, who carried the Scotland flag at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur last September, said.

Costs could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds as Diane Modahl knows only too well. She and her husband were forced to sell their house in a successful battle to overturn a conviction and they remain deeply in debt. "You could be left with no name and no money," Walker, aged 25, said. "I do not want this to dominate my life and this potentially could ruin it."

However, a wealthy backer, Tony Shiret, said last night that he may intervene to help Walker. "We are keeping the situation under review." Shiret said. Walker has no house to sell and, having broken into full-time athletics only two years ago, he has yet to make his fortune. That could have happened this year. By cashing in on his title of European champion, he would be in the six-figure league with the potential to scoop more than £250,000 if successful on the Golden League circuit.

Even if a UK Athletics disciplinary panel meets swiftly — and that is far from certain — the troubles have weighed heavily on Walker while he has attempted to continue training. That is bound to affect his performances this summer should the hearing panel clear him in time. Reebok, Walker's sponsor, has suspended payments immediately but it will backdate them if he is cleared. The UK Sports Council, which administers Lottery funding, is following the same principle.

Nick Bitel, Walker's lawyer, chided the system. "It should not be up to individual athletes to pay for their defence." Bitel said. "Dougie has had the ability to fight so far on meagre savings but one of the factors of the ability to fight on is funding. There should be a form of public defender."

Walker was on a train in London when the news was broken to him and, within 90 minutes, he was giving a news conference at the Law Society. "This is my worst nightmare," he said. "I never anticipated this. I have always been dead against drugs and cynical about people protesting their innocence. Nobody should ever take the stuff and nobody should ever go through this either."

Traces of nandrolone were found in an out-of-competition test conducted by the UK Sports Council, on December 1. Nandrolone is a muscle-building hormone which, according to the 1998 UK Sports Council report, is the most commonly used steroid.

Controversially, several sportsmen and women whose tests have detected traces of it have had had bans reduced or waived. They include Djamel Bouras, the Olympic champion judo player from France, Dana Cervantes, a Spanish pole vaulter, and Olivier Bernard, a Swiss triathlete.

Davie Gibson, Walker's coach, said the news had come as "a huge shock". He added: "I am 100 per cent sure that Dougie has never taken performance-enhancing drugs."



Walker: trial to come

Bichel added: "Dougie is extremely angry, not just with the delay but also with the fact that, here we are, four months out and we have had no access to the most basic information from the laboratory. The committee says there is enough evidence to go forward. What we want to know is what is the evidence.

"This type of result could have come from taking supplements or it could have been naturally occurring. It can come from all sorts of sources. The only supplements that Dougie takes are those which many athletes in his position take and none of them are on the banned substances list."

Walker is not the first Scottish European champion to face a drugs controversy. David Jenkins, the 1971 400 metres champion, was found guilty on four counts of involvement in smuggling more than $70 million of steroids across the Mexican border into the United States. He was given a seven-year sentence but released after ten months.

Jenkins, though, ended up a rich man. He lives now in San Diego, running a business manufacturing and distributing what claims to be the top selling protein powder in the United States.

Modahl lesson, page 54

Best intentions fail to lift Irish spirits

Moldova 0
Northern Ireland 0

From George Caulkin in Chisinau

SIMULTANEOUSLY, the image managed to be both poignant and infuriating. Fleeting memories of George Best accompany Northern Ireland everywhere — as a damning millstone and an inspiration — but the sight of his spindly frame clad in Old Trafford red adoring the front cover of the Moldovan journal, *Sist Sport*, was almost too much to bear last night.

Before the women and the drink diverted his talent in other directions, Best was famed as much for the breathy array of his natural skill as for his failure to display it in the finals of any significant international competition. By virtue of this inadequate, unadventurous draw, any lingering Irish hopes of qualifying for Euro 2000 have all but seeped away.

Germany, Finland and Turkey make up their remaining group three opponents and, on this evidence, their diminishing hopes of collecting maximum points are hardly viable. Lawrie McMenemy described it as a "difficult game" as he stood forlornly on the pitch at the end of a dispiriting evening, but that was a hopeless summation.

"We battle on, of course we do." McMenemy said, pointing to a long throw-in that almost found its way to goal without intervention as proof of his side's imaginary dominance. Laughable. There were, perhaps, extenuating circumstances. Moldovan football has toppled from its pedestal of the late Fifties, when their leading club sides competed in the upper echelons of the Soviet league. The split from Moscow at the start of the decade has brought little fortune for the national team, who have not won a competitive fixture since 1995.

GROUP THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	4	3	0	1	7	3	9
Germany	3	2	0	1	6	2	6
Finland	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
N Ireland	5	1	2	2	3	8	5
Moldova	5	0	2	3	5	10	2

Does not include Germany v Finland

The situation is just as bleak off the field. Inflation is nudging 100 per cent, the average monthly salary is static at around $30 and the price of a Big Mac is double that for a bottle of vodka. No wonder the Republican Stadium was a sullen, if not unfriendly, venue.

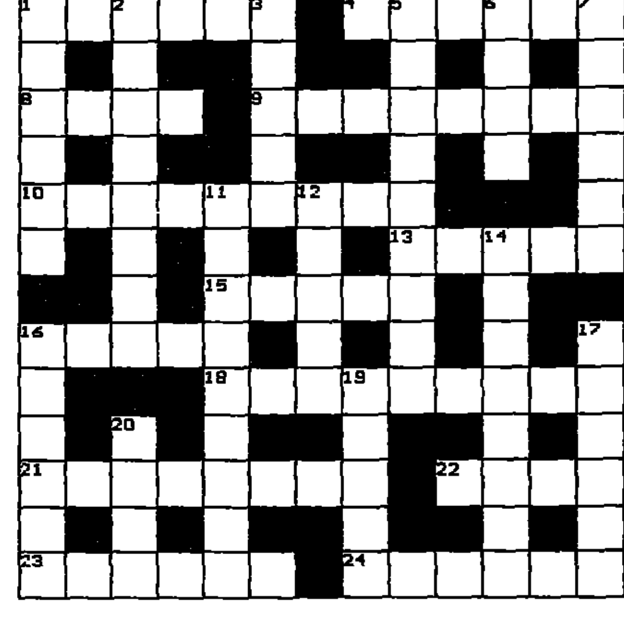
Steve Robinson will long remember it, however, if not always for the right reasons. The Bournemouth forward was making his full international debut, as McMenemy's sole change from the defeat against Germany, but it was he who was responsible for scuppering the best Irish chance.

A *thumping*, lofted ball from Darren Patterson was flicked on by Iain Dowie and Keith Gillespie stuttered forward in entranced disbelief at the space afforded him. When the shot came — and it was delivered with some force — Robinson found himself in the firing line.

A sparsely-watered, leaden pitch, made close control a near-impossibility and a humdrum spectacle was the predictable result. Dowie roused a little local ire for the yellow card he received for a robust challenge on the goalkeeper and later, much later, this was to be seen as an illuminating memory. They think it's Moldova? It is now.

MOLDOVA (4-4-2) **S Dinov** (Constructorul) — **O Fistican** (Zimbru Chisinau), **S Stroenco** (Tiligul Tiraspol), **A Sosnovshi** (Spartak Moscow), **I Oprea** (Zimbru Chisinau; sub: **G Stratulat**, Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk, 90) — **V Gaidamasciuc** (Serif Tiraspol), **S Epureanu** (Zimbru Chisinau) **R Rebeja** (Zimbru Chisinau), **A Guzun** (Torpedo Zaporozhzhya) — **S Clescenco** (Zimbru Chisinau), **A Suharev** (Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk)
NORTHERN IRELAND (4-5-1) **M Taylor** (Fulham) — **D Patterson** (Dundee United, sub: **A Hughes**, Newcastle United, 62), **M Williams** (Chesterfield), **S Morrow** (Queens Park Rangers), **K Horlock** (Manchester City) — **K Gillespie** (Blackburn Rovers), **S Lomas** (West Ham United), **N Lennon** (Leicester City), **S Robinson** (Bournemouth), **M Hughes** (Wimbledon) — **I Dowie** (Queens Park Rangers).
Referee: E Trivcovic (Croatia)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1680

ACROSS
1 Scot. national dish (6)
4 Commit crime: upset (6)
8 Point of perfection (4)
9 Offer, burn as sacrifice (8)
10 Shrewish woman (9)
13 Bounty captain (5)
15 Muslim-paradise beauty (5)
16 Extra card in pack (5)
18 Without single answer, definite conclusion (4-5)
21 US President, killed; *gad, rifle! (anag.)* (8)
22 Competent (4)
23 Meal: a mess, if dog's (6)
24 Look up adoringly to (6)

DOWN
1 A toast; well-being (6)
2 Attractive but flimsy (8)
3 Oscillate (5)
5 Cold damage to extremities (9)
6 Brio (4)
7 Soak (6)
11 Goddess of Love (9)
12 Heraldic, sky, blue (5)
14 Unfit to eat (8)
16 With rough, sharp edges (6)
17 Stick (to) (6)
19 Lowest point (5)
20 Grain husks (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1679
ACROSS: 3 Pal 8 Baize 9 Inertia 10 Drunken 11 Ached 12 Artist 14 Meddle 15 Tussle 17 Becalm 20 Mirth 21 Lockjaw 24 Tumbler 25 Rural 26 All
DOWN: 1 Abed 2 Piquet 3 Perk 4 Liana 5 Legalese 6 Etched 7 Daydream 12 Automata 13 Self-help 16 Scrimp 18 Abjure 19 Ultra 22 Curl 23 Weld

Wisden warns of cricket crisis

Richard Hobson delves into the new edition of the game's bible

The laziest way to greet the arrival of a new *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack* onto the bookshelves is to think of daffodils mirroring the yellow wrappers and the dawning tranquility of an English summer. There remains something reassuring about *Wisden's* publication, even on April Fools' Day, but that is not to say peace and harmony reign on every page.

When Matthew Engel took over as editor from Graeme Wright in 1993, he described as a sacred tradition the book's "independence from cricket's ruling bodies so that it remains free to comment robustly on the issues the game faces". Six years on, the 136th edition finds Engel doing exactly that in typically waspish, often withering fashion.

His claim of passive discrimination towards ethnic-minority players in club cricket in England is considered elsewhere. This might be the most controversial passage in the editor's notes but not for the first time, both the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) come under heavy criticism.

The opinion that the ICC has dithered over the labyrinthine issue of match-fixing will, surely, meet with widespread agreement. Engel, who called for a full-scale inquiry by the ICC last year, writes: "The crisis is not merely the worst in 20 years. It is doing more damage than anything since Bodyline because it is eating away at cricket's most valuable asset: its reputation for fair play."

Of the ICC supervisory body set up to oversee investigations by national bodies, he adds: "This did at least appear to constitute an acceptance that the rotten apples had to be removed from the barrel. But that misses the point. The poison is in the barrel itself, and it is likely to seep out again and again in the years ahead."

Rather more contentious is a suggestion that Jagmohan Dalmiya should resign as the ICC president. "He almost split world cricket trying to take charge of the ICC. Having succeeded, he has given the game no leadership whatever." There is a case to be made against Dalmiya, although he was not in authority in 1995 when the ICC decided to take no action on hearing that Shane Warne and Mark Waugh had taken money from an Indian bookmaker.

Engel's opposition to the introduction of a two-divison county championship from next year has been consistent though, I feel, misguided. To say that the new system "makes no sense whatever" appears a little glib and the argument that confusion will be created by six of the 18 sides changing divisions each year overlooks the fact that promotion and relegation is designed to bring a more competitive edge. It is fairly simple to follow in football.

Ian Austin, the Lancashire bowler, is the most conspicuous of the Five Cricketers of the Year chosen solely by the editor. So much so, that Engel feels moved to explain the choice. "Nowadays it is a rarity for someone to come along and establish a special rapport with his home crowd . . . there ought to be dozens like him, but there aren't."

The other four choices are Darren Gough, Muttiah Muralitharan, Arjuna Ranatunga and Jonty Rhodes. What will be of great interest is the identity of the Five Players of the Century, to be chosen by a panel of 100 people involved in the game and announced next year.

The new *Wisden* is the largest ever. It is, indeed, the first to pass 1,500 pages. During a period of expansion, Engel has been keen to make the book "less intimidating" but it remains *the* prime work of reference for the game.

As well as a wealth of statistics and erudite features — a contribution by Peter Roebuck on Graeme Hick is particularly interesting here — there are lighter-hearted items between the covers.

Eleven unusual reasons to stop play last year included a magpie stealing the keys to a motorised roller; a sit-down strike by parents protesting at the omission of their son from a school match and a naked woman riding around the outfield on a quad bike. Engel's eye for the bizarre has added to the enduring appeal of the publication without detracting from its authority.

THE FIVE CRICKETERS OF THE YEAR

IAN AUSTIN (Lancashire and England)
DARREN GOUGH (Yorkshire and England)
MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN (Sri Lanka)
ARJUNA RANATUNGA (Sri Lanka)
JONTY RHODES (Natal and South Africa)

☐ *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 1999* (John Wisden and Co Ltd), £28 hardback or paperback.

